

**Iran hates atomic bomb — Rafsanjani**

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Sunday his country hated atomic weapons, countering accusations that Tehran was trying to develop a nuclear capability. "We really hate the atomic bomb, Islam has prevented us from such adventurism," he told the U.S. television channel Cable News Network (CNN) in a live interview. It was the first interview of its kind filmed in Tehran, as Iranian leaders never appear live, even on official state media. The United States has charged that Iran is trying to gain nuclear arms, and slapped an economic embargo on the country which it also accuses of supporting international terrorism. Both charges have always been denied by Tehran. The United States has also tried to persuade Russia to end its nuclear cooperation with Iran and break a billion-dollar contract to build a nuclear plant at Bushehr on the Gulf. But Mr. Rafsanjani said "Russia has been serious about its covenant with us. We don't see any reason why the Russians should surrender to the inappropriate pressures of the U.S."

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**Prisoners relaunch strike**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian prisoners campaigning for their release from Israeli jails relaunched their hunger-strike Sunday after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to strike a deal on extending autonomy, Palestinian sources said.

Inmates in jails in Nablus, Ramallah and Jenin on the occupied West Bank are to go further and step up their campaign by refusing to drink water, the sources said.

The fast for freedom, launched two weeks ago, was suspended on Saturday in the hope that PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would meet a midnight deadline for agreement on spreading Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank.

The PLO had demanded a timetable for prisoner releases as part of the deal.

But Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres failed to reach an agreement in more than eight hours of talks which broke up at dawn Sunday. (see separate story)

The Israeli prison service said only 1,200 prisoners were continuing their fast Saturday out of the 4,000 who joined the hunger-strike campaign.

A spokesman for the Palestinian Mandela Institute, a human rights group, said: "Palestinian prisoners drank milk and some ate eggs on Saturday dinner, according to international rules, it is not considered as breaking a hunger strike."

After breaking a Saturday midnight deadline to strike a deal, despite a marathon 8.5-hour meeting at the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip, the two men decided to hold talks again as soon as possible.

"They may meet again as early as Monday, but it may be Tuesday," a spokesman for Mr. Peres said Sunday.

Israel Radio reported the talks would take place on Monday.

Israel and the PLO set a July 1 for an agreement, covering an Israeli army redeployment outside Palestinian towns on the West Bank, a transfer of civil powers and elections on a self-rule council.

Mr. Peres made the pledge. (Continued on page 7)



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hold talks at the Erez crossing point

**Israel, PLO to make new bid for self-rule deal**

Combined agency dispatches

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will make a fresh attempt on Monday or Tuesday to agree an army redeployment to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

Israeli officials sought to play down the importance of the broken deadline, which fell exactly one year after Mr. Arafat's return to Gaza.

"You have to expect such difficulties when you enter the final straight in negotiations," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

"There is really no crisis with the Palestinians and we should sign an agreement with them before the end of the month of July," said Mr. Sarid, one of Israel's autonomy negotiators.

He said the main bone of contention was over control of roads and rural areas on the West Bank.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wants to maintain

security control over the territory but is prepared to withdraw troops from six of the seven large West Bank towns in stages, Israeli sources said.

Mr. Arafat has demanded a clear timetable for army evacuation of all West Bank towns to enable elections to go ahead quickly.

But Israel has offered to pull out of only four towns — Jenin, Nablus, Kalkilya and Tulkarem — in a first stage. Ramallah and Bethlehem will come next.

"There is an agreement on a withdrawal from six of the seven cities," said Mr. Sarid. He said Israel would not withdraw from Hebron, where 450 Jews live amidst some 110,000 Palestinians.

It also opposed joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols on roads to settlements, Israeli officials said.

Mr. Arafat wants redeployment over two months from all major West Bank towns, including Hebron which have special security

(Continued on page 7)

**Egypt warns Tourabi against threatening Nile**

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa rebuked Sudan's spiritual patron Hassan Al Tourabi on Sunday for suggesting Sudan's control of the Upper Nile would make Cairo vulnerable in any conflict with Khartoum.

"Tourabi should stay away from matters that are far too big for him. He should not play with fire — and at the same time he should not play with water," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told the press.

Strained relations between the two countries worsened last week over Egyptian suspicions that Sudan was behind the attempt on President Hosni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. Two border clashes heightened the tension.

Egypt has ruled out military action against Sudan, referring instead to unspecified alternative responses.

But Mr. Tourabi said on Saturday the Nile waters, which run through Sudan before reaching Egypt, would be a powerful weapon in Sudanese hands in any confrontation.

"We do not want to aggravate nationalist tensions ... but the water supplies come from this country. They (Egypt) have no understanding of water and if Sudan is provoked to interfere with water agreements this is going to be deadly," he told Reuters in Khartoum. (Continued on page 2)

**Jordan Times**

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

**Sharif Zeid, team head for Paris**

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday left Amman for Paris to join His Majesty King Hussein on his visit to the French capital which will start Monday. During the visit, King Hussein will meet with French President Jacques Chirac and senior French officials for talks on Franco-Jordanian relations as well as issues of common interest, namely the Middle East peace process. Sharif Zeid was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki and several officials. Leaving along with the prime minister were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabriti.

**Jordan's debt relief process clears major hurdle in U.S.**

Special from Washington

THIS WEEK, the complicated legislative process of providing Washington's debt relief for Jordan came one step closer to completion when, after White House officials and lawmakers on Capitol Hill resolved differences over domestic issues in the rescissions bill, the House adopted the measure by 275 to 151 with no controversy over the Kingdom's debt relief.

For reasons related purely to constituent politics, two liberal freshmen senators managed to prevent the adoption of the bill in the Senate, delaying it until July 10 at the earliest, when Congress comes back from its recess.

The agreement between the White House and congressional lawmakers earlier in the week cleared a major hurdle in the bill which makes \$16.1 billion in cuts of previously approved but unused funds and provides

approximately \$7 billion in disaster relief for California, Oklahoma cities and other programmes such as \$275 million to write off the remainder of Jordan's debt to the U.S.

After the rescissions package passed the House on Thursday, political observers expected the measure to be adopted by the Senate with little difficulty, but the two Democratic Senators — Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois — exercised stalling tactics on the Senate floor that finally caused Senate majority leader Bob Dole (Kansas) to adjourn the Senate session until he receives assurances that Democrats would not offer any additional amendments or delay the measure.

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**Iraq provided missing information, Ekeus says**

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq, seeking an end to five years of international economic sanctions, has disclosed new details about its germ warfare programme, U.N. disarmament envoy Rolf Ekeus said here Sunday.

But Mr. Ekeus must certify that all Iraq's biological, chemical, nuclear and ballistic missile weapons programmes have been eliminated before the Security Council will consider easing the ban on Iraqi oil exports imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We have agreed to continue intensive work on clarifying these additional points," he told reporters.

Mr. Ekeus was to meet Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz before leaving to report his findings to the Security Council.

Mr. Ekeus said in his most recent report that the only serious remaining problems in eliminating weapons of mass destruction were in the biological area.

Mr. Ekeus had spent a year seeking information on the biological research.

Iraq said before he arrived that its cooperation depended on the United Nations declaring investigations into other weapons programmes closed and guaranteeing the lifting of the ban on oil exports.

the U.N. Security Council over terms for easing sanctions, Iraq hopes the U.S. determination to keep sanctions will succumb to the more sympathetic view of France, Russia and China.

The United States has linked a lifting of sanctions to Iraqi behaviour in a wide range of areas beyond military programmes, including human rights. It can block an easing of sanctions through its veto in the Security Council, which it has vowed to use if necessary.

Russia and France have suggested linking an easing of the ban on oil exports to Mr. Ekeus reporting that Iraq has complied with all the arms control demands, including biological weapons.

The Security Council, which meets every 60 days to review the sanctions, is due to hold its next session in mid-July.

Mr. Ekeus made no additional comment after the final round of talks with Mr. Aziz. He held talks earlier Sunday with Gen. Rashid for the third time since he arrived here.

Mr. Ekeus was due to take a special U.N. flight to Bahrain, the U.N. field office for weapons inspectors, on his way back to U.N. headquarters in New York.

**Bosnian Serbs shell Sarajevo, target U.N.**

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs targeted United Nations peacekeepers on Sunday, firing three shells at U.N. headquarters in Sarajevo and aiming heavy machinegun fire at a convoy driving along a hazardous mountain road.

Three peacekeepers were slightly wounded by shrapnel when a mortar round exploded in trees next to the U.N. flagpole in the courtyard of the headquarters compound. A local police guard at the U.S. embassy next door was also slightly injured.

The building serves as headquarters for all U.N. peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and is the residence of the U.N. commander in the country, Lieutenant General Rupert Smith.

He is currently on leave but the building was crowded with U.N. military and civilian personnel when the shell struck.

"This is the third day running that shells and rounds are landed close to U.N. Bosnia headquarters," said U.N. spokesman Lieutenant

Colonel Gary Coward, adding that Sunday's shelling was probably a deliberate attack.

Two Associated Press journalists were slightly injured when two more shells landed just outside the U.N. compound some 45 minutes after the first attack.

As shells continued, the city's mayor said a Bosnian army offensive to ease the Serbs' stranglehold siege was exacting a terrible price on civilians but it was his people's only hope.

"We will take the risk of fighting for survival if the other option is surrender and survival," Mayor Tarik Kupusovic told Reuters.

He spoke as the city's mortuary gathered the 13 victims of Saturday's fierce Serb shelling which the U.N. condemned as indiscriminate and deliberate targeting of civilians.

While the U.N. said the shelling was random and apparently unconnected to offensive activity by Muslim-led forces, city dwellers were convinced the attacks were revenge for successes by their

army somewhere far from the eyes of U.N. observers.

Mr. Kupusovic rejected the argument that the government had brought unnecessary woes on its people, pointing out that shelling had increased, water and power been cut off and aid supplies blocked before the offensive began.

European Union envoy Carl Bildt, who met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on his second tour of former Yugoslavia, said Serbia would have to do more than recognise Bosnia if international sanctions against it were to be lifted.

He said Serbia would have to help "achieve changes" on the ground in Bosnia, and there would have to be freedom of movement for humanitarian aid convoys.

He also said talks between the warring parties in Bosnia are "not imminent."

"The situation is going from bad to worse and that's what we are trying to make very clear to all parties," Mr. Bildt said.

(Continued on page 7)

## Tourabi asserts Mubarak obsessed with militancy

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Islamic patron Hassan Al Tourabi said on Saturday Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has been blaming Khartoum for an attempt to kill him to deflect attention from Egypt's problems with Islamic militancy.

Dr. Tourabi denied Sudan had any links with last week's failed bid to assassinate Mr. Mubarak in Ethiopia but said the Sudanese people were "highly mobilised" to confront any Egyptian military strike against their country in retaliation.

"Mubarak is trying to divert the attention completely from the domestic Egyptian crisis and the opposition to his government," Dr. Tourabi told Reuters at his modest Khartoum office.

"Islamic militancy is his only obsession. His Excellency the president (Mubarak) only released actually his obsession when the accident scared him," he added.

Mr. Mubarak has repeatedly criticised Dr. Tourabi, implying that Sudan was behind the ambush on his motorcade in Addis Ababa last Monday. In public remarks, he said a Sudanese man, Mohammad Seraj, had masterminded the assassination bid.

Dr. Tourabi, widely regarded as the real power behind the Khartoum government, blamed the escalation of diplomatic tensions between Egypt and Sudan on this "obsession."

"It is obvious that Sudan was not involved at all," said the slim, bearded leader wearing traditional white robes and turban. "The attack happened in Ethiopia and the president himself should have seen who attacked him."

"The authorities in

Ethiopia said they were Arabs but he panicked and immediately turned against Sudan," he added.

Shortly after he spoke, Ethiopia said its security forces shot dead three heavily armed gunmen on the run in Addis Ababa since the failed assassination attempt. It said the gunmen were of Arab origin.

Dr. Tourabi, a Western-educated lawyer who was an Islamic activist as a Khartoum university student in the 1950s, said he was not alarmed by the "unfortunate" Egyptian troop buildup on the disputed border area of Halaib on the Red Sea.

He said he hoped Cairo would not go as far as to attack Sudan, but he added that "the Sudanese are now highly mobilised" to face any emergencies.

A senior Egyptian official said on Saturday Cairo had no intentions of attacking Sudan after the Egyptian press called for action to punish Khartoum.

Dr. Tourabi also warned that Egypt's main water supply, the Nile, was under Sudanese control, running through Sudan before reaching Egypt.

"We do not want to aggravate nationalist tensions... but the water supplies come from this country. They (Egypt) have no underground supply of water and if Sudan is provoked to interfere with water agreements this is going to be deadly," he said.

A smiling Tourabi mocked Mr. Mubarak's threats to take unspecified action against Sudan, saying he wished the Egyptian leader had also threatened Israel.

"It would be silly to be thrown into this crisis... by one person whose temper is running a little bit wild," he said.

Dr. Tourabi said the Egyptians were banning any supplies to cross from Sudan into Halaib, adding: "That would probably aggravate the relationship between Sudan and Egypt."

Speaking softly and chuckling frequently at his own remarks, Dr. Tourabi turned the tables on Egypt, accusing it of supporting an international campaign to brand Sudan of terrorism.

Egypt has repeatedly accused Sudan of sheltering and training militants who have been trying to topple Mr. Mubarak's 14-year rule since 1992.



ON THE BEACH: Two Algerian girls wearing traditional attire enjoy a sunny day with their boyfriends on an Algiers beach. The government announced that a nightly curfew is

going to be cut by one and a half hour a day as of July 5, the country's independence day (see page 12) (AFP photo)

## Assad sells peace to Syrians — but are they buying?

By Salah Nasrawi  
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — President Hafez Al Assad sends envoys to talk peace with Israel, but many Syrians have still not warmed to the idea of doing business with the Jewish state.

Syrian businessmen worry they will lose out if their Israeli counterparts are allowed to move in. Militant Palestinian groups suspect they will be kicked out of the country as part of the deal.

Information Minister Mohammad Salman said the government has been working to "educate" the public on the importance of peace. But some Syrians have been slow to come around.

"People have doubts, and nobody can blame them because they have suffered for a long time from wars and conflicts" with Israel, said Abdul Hamid Malakan, director-general of the Syrian Chamber of Industry.

Businessmen feel they could be pushed aside, not only by Western companies, but also by large Israeli firms, particularly in industries such as construction and tourism.

The problem is, what sort of peace will we get in the end?" asked Mr. Aidi.

Mr. Assad has been laying the groundwork for a peace

since joining the Middle East talks in 1991.

Peace overtures have been accompanied by a loosening of the state-controlled economy, and the economic growth rate is a healthy six per cent.

A peace treaty could give the economy a further boost by bringing in badly needed investments from overseas.

Tourism, which brought Syria a record \$3.5 billion last year, also stands to benefit.

The president has long hosted Palestinian groups still intent on undermining agreements with Israel. But the factions are likely to get booted out as part of any peace agreement. It is not clear where they would go, though they say they can survive without Syrian support.

"We only depend on the logistic support of the Syrians and we think we can do without it," said Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It is control of the Golani Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967. Syria demands an unconditional withdrawal from the Heights, while Israel wants full diplomatic ties and open borders in return for relinquishing the territory.

"They (Israel) have to return every inch under their occupation," said Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. "How can we normalise (relations) when they still hold our land?"

Vice-Admiral John Scott Redd, who has overseen the region as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command since 1994, is now also commander of the 5th Fleet.

The 5th Fleet, which comes under Florida-based U.S. Central command, helps assure access to Middle East oil resources, help Gulf Arab states maintain security and deter threats.

The region covers 19 countries, from Egypt in the west to Pakistan in the east, Iraq in the north and Kenya in the south, and includes the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Besides the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, the force is made up of two submarines, as well as frigates, cruisers, and destroyers.

The U.S. Navy, which has been based in Bahrain since 1949 although it is not mentioned officially at the request of Arab countries, has reinforced its presence in the region since the later stages of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

## U.S. names Gulf armada 5th Fleet

DUBAI (AFP) — U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf and the Red Sea have been named the 5th fleet to reflect the nature of the force which helped eject Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, a spokesman said Sunday.

The current force of 10,000 sailors, an aircraft carrier and 14 other ships will not be increased with Saturday's re-commissioning of the 5th fleet, which served in the Pacific Ocean during World War II, Commander T. McCrory said.

It is simply an "administrative realignment" with the navy's four other fleets around the world," Com. McCrory said. "We might as well call it a fleet, because people in the navy understand a fleet."

Since the 1991 Gulf war, the navy force has been tasked with enforcing the international embargo on Iraq and its carrier-based warplanes have barred Iraqi aircraft from flying over the southern parts of the country."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Vatican to attend Baghdad conference

AMMAN (AP) — The Vatican will participate in a Christian conference that will open in Iraq on Tuesday to express support the people of the sanctions-hit country, the Holy See's representative to Jordan said Sunday. Monsignor Raouf Najjar said the conference, entitled "Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity," will also "express support" for the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace process, of which Iraq is critical. "The Vatican agreed that the meeting be held in Iraq as an expression of Christian solidarity with the Iraqi people," who are suffering under international sanctions imposed following the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Monsignor Najjar said. The conference will discuss various religious and humanitarian issues, he added. Iraq has about 800,000 Christians, most of them Chaldeans. They also include Assyrians, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants.

### U.N. extends W. Sahara mandate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council has voted unanimously to extend the mandate for the U.N. mission in Western Sahara by three months and said it was committed to holding a referendum on the future of the territory. The Polisario Front suspended its participation in U.N. voter identification earlier this week, claiming that Morocco was improperly adding people to voter lists. The council said it was concerned by "continuing interruptions caused by the two parties" and urged them "to reconsider recent relevant decisions." In a statement issued after the vote, the United States said it "fully expects that the delays and problems that have plagued this operation for four years will finally be overcome and that a free, fair and impartial referendum... will occur early in 1996." The statement warned that "neither we nor the U.N. can continue to pour resources into operations for which we can see no end."

### Kuwaiti loan to rehabilitate Beirut airport

BEIRUT (AP) — Kuwait is providing a \$50 million loan to help rehabilitate and expand Beirut international airport, a Kuwaiti official said. The low-interest loan comes from the Kuwait Fund for Development, said Badr Al Mashari Al Hmeidi, director general of the agency. A four-year project to expand the airport's passenger terminal and build a third runway are part of a plan to restore the facility as a transit point for flights to Europe, Africa, the Middle and Far East. The cost of the project, expected to be completed by 1998, is estimated at \$400 million. It is part of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's \$18 billion programme to rebuild Lebanon from the 1975-90 civil war.

### Hassan II congratulates new emir of Qatar

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II of Morocco has congratulated the new emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless coup last week. In the message, the monarch wished Sheikh Hamad success as Qatari leader and hoped for the "progress, prosperity and well-being" of the people of Qatar. Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani was ousted on Tuesday while on a private visit to Switzerland.

### Head of Coptic Church visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — The Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Shenouda III, arrived here on Saturday from Egypt on his second visit to Lebanon since 1972. He will attend the enthronement of the new head of the Armenian Orthodox Church, Bishop Aram Kassisheh, who was elected Catholicos of the House of Cilicia on Wednesday in Lebanon. Pope Shenouda was also expected to inaugurate a Coptic Church in Beirut on Sunday. On Tuesday he will be the guest at a luncheon organised by President Elias Hrawi and is also expected to give a press conference before returning home. The cleric was given an official welcome at Beirut airport where cabinet ministers and other figures were at hand to greet him.

### Turkish troops kill 11 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Turkish troops, stepping up recent attacks against Kurdish guerrillas in Turkey, killed 11 insurgents Sunday, the regional governor's office said. Two soldiers were killed. The clashes occurred in southeastern Sirnak, Siirt and Van provinces, said the governor's office, based here. Security forces killed 49 rebels in several clashes last week. The guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) have been fighting for autonomy in the southeast since 1984. The violence has claimed more than 16,000 lives since then.

### Court to rule on controversial film in August

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian appeals court will rule in August on two cases filed by the mystic Sufi sect and by a Christian lawyer against the film "The Emigrant," which they say attacks religion, legal officials said Sunday. The court decided in June to join the two trials, the latest in a flurry of litigation against the controversial film, which was banned by an earlier hearing before the decision was overturned on appeal. The court will rule on Aug. 27. The Sufi sect, which counts six million followers in Egypt, wants the ban reimposed saying the film violates Islamic law by depicting Prophet Joseph, son of Jacob. Coptic Christian lawyer Hosni Hime Abadir has accused the film of offending Christianity and altering events depicted in the Bible. Mahmoud Abul Faid, the Islamist lawyer who first won a ban in December, has filed for the March appeal to be suspended which allowed the film to be shown again. On Saturday the court decided to adjourn until Aug. 5 Mr. Abul Faid's case, legal officials said.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM: The French Cultural Centre in the cause 1561, at the

LECTURE: The Jordanian Artist Muhammed Damak, and artist Tahia Al Hakim

EXHIBITION: Jordanian Artist Muhammed Damak, and artist Tahia Al Hakim

WORKS: Demonstrating the development of works by Jordanian and French Cultural

SELECTED WORKS: Selected Works 1995 at the French Cultural

WORKS: Selected Works 1995 at the



**CHECKING ON HEALTH CARE:** His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Sunday meets with Minister of Health Aref Batayneh and other senior officials of the Ministry of Health to discuss health care services and ministry projects, including means of importing medicines and food supplies and rules and regulations governing such imports. Prince Abdullah called for expanding the base of comprehensive health insurance and primary health care services, particularly those related to children. The officials told the Regent that sufficient supplies of basic medicines were readily available in the country (Petra photo)

## RJ adds flights amid increased demand

AMMAN (Petra) — In a drive to meet the growing travel needs of the Jordanian community to the U.S. state of Michigan, Royal Jordanian (RJ) has started unscheduled flight services from Amman to Detroit during the summer, according to an RJ statement Sunday.

The service is being run on a trial basis to determine whether regular flights to Detroit would be viable.

RJ currently operates five regular flights to New York and two flights to Chicago, the statement said.

Also to meet demand on U.S.-bound flights, RJ increased its weekly flights to Chicago to three per week until September, according to the statement.

The statement said also that similar unscheduled flights from Amman to Montreal and Toronto and back to Amman have also been introduced for similar reasons of growing demand.

The statement from RJ further said that as of July 1 two direct flights a week from Amman to Alexandria.

Egypt will commence. RJ last year had to schedule additional flights to and from Europe to meet the needs of tourists visiting the Kingdom.

Increased activity in the tourism sector following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty brought higher demand on the airline, the statement said.

The national air carrier is planning to add on flights between November and December in anticipation of another peak season.

## Local BCCI investors to seek compensation through representation by Egyptian bank

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Depositors Protection Association (JDPA) Sunday announced that a group of depositors in the defunct Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will meet during mid-July in Cairo to appear to Luxembourg courts to allow an Egyptian bank to represent them in official out-of-court negotiations with depositors, liquidators and shareholders and decide further action to reclaim losses suffered in the 1991 BCCI scandal.

"We have decided to employ the Faisal Islamic Bank of Cairo to reclaim our rights, and lead discussions with the relevant parties," said Odeh Machini, head of the JDPA.

"We have noticed that the creditors committee (that is currently handling the negotiations) has become less efficient and less interested, especially in the last three months. We want a representative that will pursue our rights," Mr. Machini said.

The JDPA is part of a committee based in London

working to retrieve the loss of nearly \$2 billion in deposits shared by ten Islamic banks, a Luxembourg holding group, a London depositors protection association, and a creditors and depositors group in Egypt.

Jordanian depositors constitute 120 accounts with a loss of about \$100 million, most of which was in foreign currency deposits in the UK, Cyprus and France.

Mr. Machini said the group was also prepared to file a case against BCCI, and had filed twice to Luxembourg courts, believing that individual cases would stand better chances for more equitable settlements.

But legal proceedings in the case are structured in such a way that courts will accept cases only from liquidators.

The depositors group expected a settlement in May, but an appeal from a BCCI employee late in the month said that the court's decision involving the liquidators — rumoured to be 20 per cent compensation — was unfair. That appeal has delayed the decision to date. "Our case is waiting on a

technical point," he said. "Unless it is settled at the liquidity level, we can not file a case. If we have a final decision today, I promise that we would file our case tomorrow," Mr. Machini said.

Mr. Machini was addressing a press conference at the JDPA office in Amman.

"The meaning is to keep all parties involved in this disaster," he said. "It's been four years and there is still no clear announcement issued officially to tell depositors that their rights will be paid in 10 years or that they can expect 10 per cent — we are still floating," Mr. Machini said.

He said the bank has been negligent in compensation although \$5 billion are available in the box of liquidation: \$1.8 billion as a contribution from the Abu Dhabi government; \$1 billion as a result of a settlement with First American National Bank in Washington D.C.; \$1 billion from the Ben Mahfouz family; \$1 billion in the accounts cashbox of the bank; and the outcome of litigation and settlements paid by debtors in the amount of \$1 billion."

**Ministry gets new secretary general**  
Amman (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday appointed Farouq Naghaway as Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development, succeeding Suleiman Rousan. Meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the cabinet also approved the secondment of Rafi' Shahin, who is currently an advisor at the prime ministry to the Ministry of Information as of July 16.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Diva" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.  
\* "The Civil War: the cause 1861," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* "The Fatimid Textiles in the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin," by Mrs. Gisela Helenecke at the National Gallery at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.

\* Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad At Gallery.

\* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

\* Ali Jabri, "Selected Works '85/'95" at Darat Al Funun, until July 4.

\* Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery

## Jardaneh says there is no move to reduce customs duties on cars

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Sunday sought to put to rest widespread reports of an impending reduction of customs duties, sales tax and other levies on passenger cars. The reports had led to a severe stagnation of the market for cars in the country by dissuading many potential buyers to await lower prices.

A statement issued by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh after a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers said there was "no move to reduce customs duties on cars as reported by some daily newspapers."

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, emphasised that "customs duties, sales tax and other tariffs imposed on cars will remain as they are without any reduction."

Petra said the Council of Ministers discussed "the

issue in detail and means to deal with the negative impact of such press reports on car dealers."

That was a reference to complaints by most car dealers that sales had dropped significantly in the last four months amid the on-and-off again reports in the local press that the Ministry of Finance was poised to announce a reduction in customs duties.

Also being circulated were reports that a proposal was adopted by the Ministry of Finance to offer total/partial customs tax exemptions to cars to be used as taxis but as a replacement for existing vehicles.

The government offered a customs reduction on cars in late 1994, when it cut an average of 27 to 45 per cent in slab-type structure of customs duties on cars based on engine capacity.

Since then, there have been numerous reports that a "second reduction" was

coming soon.

Supporting such an argument in the reports was a suggestion that Jordan was duty-bound to cut tariffs on cars if it were to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an international accord that calls for the removal of most protective measures and trade barriers.

But, officials and economists familiar with Jordan's bid to enter GATT and its successor, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), point out that the Kingdom is in the very early stages of application for admission and that it was not hard-pressed to adopt any measure as part of its accession.

The first draft of a general Jordanian document — that sets out the features of the Kingdom's economy and trade practices — was sent to GATT last year to a committee headed by Singapore which is negotiating the Kingdom's entry to the

world body. The draft was returned after a first reading and a second draft has only recently been finalised.

"Even if we assume that reducing customs duties on cars is an obligation that Jordan has to undertake as a condition to entering GATT or WTO, the fact remains that Jordan is at least one year away from accession to either," noted a source who keeps a close tab on the issue.

"Again, reduction of customs duties on cars or any other tariff on any item as part of GATT membership depends on negotiations that the concerned country conducts with the concerned panel in GATT," said the source.

The U.S. government has been pressing Jordan to adopt a uniform level of customs duties on automobiles — by restructuring the tariff system to be based on the cost rather than the engine size of the automobiles.

Such a structure, according to American arguments, will make U.S.-made vehicles, which usually have a large engine size, more competitive with their lighter Japanese counterparts.

## Minister visits Maan governorate to inspect preparations for municipal elections

Mr. Thuheirat requested that an operations room be opened to help coordinate the committees' work which involves verifying the identity of the voters before they cast their ballots and dealing with any unexpected developments.

Municipal elections are to be held in all governorates on Tuesday, July 11.

The election day has been declared a public holiday so that registered voters will be free to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote.

Meanwhile in Salt it was announced Sunday that all arrangements for the July 11

Nader Thuheirat  
municipal elections have been finalised.

promote and improve the health system.

The community medicine programme aims at defining and analysing existing and expected health problems in the community, taking into account demographic, geographic, economic and social considerations.

It is intended also to help in planning and managing primary health care services and involves coordination between health sectors operating in the country.

In short, said the ministry, community medicine helps to adapt health systems to cater to the actual health care needs of the community and enhance health services and their effectiveness.

## Japanese ambassador ends tour of duty in Kingdom

*A highlight of tenure was the raising of bilateral ties to unprecedented levels -- Ikeda*

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most diplomats who served in Jordan since September 1991, when the Arab-Israeli peace process was launched, were witnesses to history being made in the region with the breakthroughs in the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian tracks. But for someone like Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda the years also represented a major achievement — raising bilateral ties to an unprecedented level.

Mr. Ikeda, who took up his post two and a half years ago and is returning to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo this week, noted that he saw a very high level of exchange of visits between the two countries and the first "Jordan Week" in Japan — the culmination of efforts to boost bilateral relations.

Jordanian visitors to Japan included Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma, Prince Abdullah and Princess Haya.

On the other side, Their Imperial Highnesses Crown

Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako became the first members of the Japanese royal family to visit Jordan since 1976 after the then crown prince and now Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko came to the Kingdom.

In general, "I'm very pleased that I was a witness to the very important and historic events that the region saw in the last two and a half years," Ambassador Ikeda said.

"We saw Jordan taking a very courageous initiative to make peace and play a strong role in the overall peacekeeping process in the region," added Mr. Ikeda, in a reference to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October.

"There is wide international consensus on the role that Jordan plays in the region and the need to help the Kingdom," he said. As a result, it is only natural that many countries, including Japan, are ready to extend aid to Jordan, "but it is a matter of the individual policies and approaches of the countries concerned on how this willingness is translated into action."

On the political front, Japan has advanced its quest to move away from the role of a traditional banker and assume a political role in the Middle East with high-profile activities in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, said Mr. Ikeda. "That is the most important development" that he was a party to while in Jordan, he said, noting that Japan chairs the multilateral working group

on the environment.

In general, "I'm very pleased that I was a witness to the very important and historic events that the region saw in the last two and a half years," Ambassador Ikeda said.

"They had a very clear and frank exchange of views with Jordanian officials," including the Crown Prince, said the ambassador, who was honoured by His Majesty King Hussein as well as the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association for his contribution and services to developing bilateral relations.

The delegation has taken back "very clear ideas on Jordan" and now it is a matter of formulating the right measure and approach to help the Kingdom, said the ambassador, who has served in Geneva, Washington D.C., Canada and Hong Kong after joining the Japanese foreign service in 1962 at the age of 24.

Another point of personal pride for Mr. Ikeda while in Jordan was that it was during this period that his only son graduated from a U.S. law school and is now practicing law in New York.

The visit of Crown Prince Hassan to Japan in May and the "Jordan Week" held there have led to a new era in relations in that Tokyo was able to better understand

Ambassador Ikeda said the Tokyo government highly appreciated Jordan's contribution to peacemaking and noted that Amman started receiving Japanese grant aid since 1993 after the decline in the per capita income of the Kingdom qualified it to receive such assistance under parameters adopted by Tokyo.

Amman received nearly \$40 million in grant aid in the last two years, and the amount for 1995 is still under discussion.

Japan, which holds about \$1.8 billion of Jordan's foreign debts, is bound by policy not to offer debt cancellation to any country and continue to extend loans to the same country. Mr. Ikeda noted.

As such, the focus now is on how to come up with a formula that would allow the Tokyo government to extend aid to Jordan without stepping away from "the framework of its various policy measures," said the ambassador, who leaves Jordan on Tuesday.

A successor to Mr. Ikeda is expected here in about one

month.

Mr. Ikeda said he had high respect for the industriousness of Jordanians. "Jordanians have been trying to develop their human potential and resources to make up for the shortfall in natural resources...this is a very commendable effort," the envoy said.

"I hope they will continue their efforts," he said. "Japan stands ready to help in whatever manner it can."

Yoshiaki Ikeda  
Ambassador  
of Japan to Jordan

# World News

## Sri Lankan army to probe slaughter of 110 soldiers

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan army Sunday began an investigation into an attack by separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas who killed at least 110 soldiers at their northern Mandaiw base last week, a military spokesman said Sunday.

A three-member team headed by a major-general was appointed to investigate Wednesday's attack carried out by a large group of guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

"It is a routine court of inquiry which will look into the circumstances of the case and account for the weapons in the camp as well as order compensation to the victims," Mr. Munasinghe said.

The LTTE pulverised the camp despite the army being alerted by intelligence authorities 24 hours in advance about the impending assault on Mandaiw, a small islet just two kilometres (1.25 miles) away from the LTTE's stronghold of Jaffna.

The military claimed killing 50 rebels in a counter-offensive but the LTTE has admitted losing only eight of their own fighters, including two women.

Sri Lankan newspapers

criticised the nation's military Sunday for its failure to repulse the rebel attack.

In an editorial headlined "all at sea", the Sunday Times said the jungle-scrub island of Mandaiw had been allowed to become a "virtual sitting duck," defended only by a newly formed unit of volunteers.

A thousand "sea Tigers" stormed the island on April 19 and have since stepped up attacks, downing two air force transport planes, killing 42 civilians in the east and now killing more than 100 of their own men, the army says.

"The rebels' task was all the more difficult because the garrison was virtually surrounded by sea," the Sunday Times said. "But some of the sentries were apparently sleeping and the searchlights were off with only a captain in charge of the whole camp."

The head of army military intelligence has been dismissed despite tipping off the top brass about the planned attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, sources said Sunday.

"Since the collapse of the peace talks, Sri Lankan security forces have been suffering disaster after disaster

at the hands of the LTTE," the Sunday Island newspaper said.

"Newspapermen are not military strategists but it has to be pointed out that even an elementary schoolboy would say that something is seriously amiss with the military command in the north," it said.

The LTTE broke off a ceasefire on April 19 and have since stepped up attacks, downing two air force transport planes, killing 42 civilians in the east and now killing more than 100 of their own men, the army says.

"We had intelligence that the LTTE were considering an attack," military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel S. Handapangoda said Thursday. "We were not surprised. We were there ready to fight. That's why they were so many casualties."

Meanwhile a human rights group said Sunday Tamil Tiger rebels use children as combatants.

The University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR), a rights group comprised of Tamil academics who have fled the Tiger-ruled northeastern Jaffna province for fear of LTTE attacks, said in its latest report that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or Tamil Tigers was recruiting child soldiers to fight its separatist war.

"The children are growing up in a militarised environment, having constantly faced bombing and shelling.

It was the heaviest casualty toll suffered by government forces since the Tigers stormed the Poonary army camp, south of Jaffna lagoon, in November, 1993.

The army, which Wednesday described the Tiger attack as a "well-planned, well-thought-out" operation, denies it was caught napping.

"We had intelligence that the LTTE were considering an attack," military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel S. Handapangoda said Thursday. "We were not surprised. We were there ready to fight. That's why they were so many casualties."

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Prince Pavlos, heir to the Greek throne in exile, and his bride Mary-Chantal Miller, wave after their wedding ceremony at the Greek Orthodox St. Sophia Cathedral in London (AFP photo)

## Greek prince's wedding noted mostly for lawmakers' attendance

ATHENS (AP) — There was little public reaction in Greece to the wedding of former Crown Prince Pavlos, the heir to a throne that was abolished by referendum 21 years ago.

Much of the debate around the wedding has focused on the attendance of 10 members of the conservative New Democracy Party who accepted ex-King Constantine's invitation. Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreou said last month that any deputies who attended the wedding should resign.

The Socialist Party's general secretary, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, echoed his leader Saturday, attacking the conservative deputies by implying that they were trying to question the parliamentary system.

"They are chameleons of the democratic system," he said.

"There is a great need for all Greeks to defend the constitutional system of the country and not allow any doubts against it. These gentlemen have a lot to answer for."

Alexandros Papagogos, a former conservative cabinet minister, said before leaving for London: "No one tells me what to do."

Headlines Saturday were

muted, with the respected, liberal daily *Eleftherotypia* being the only major newspaper to comment on the issue on its front page.

"The 10 New Democracy

deputies are pitiful caricatures in a well-produced fiasco. But they provoke democratic sensibilities with their presence at the wedding," it said.

The monarchy was established in 1863 and after a turbulent history was abolished in 1974 in a referendum conducted by the New Democracy Party. About a third of those who voted were in favour of maintaining the monarchy. Its support is believed to be minimal today.

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Grant, Hurley home together, 'but not happy'

LONDON (AFP) — The reunion of actor Hugh Grant and his longtime girlfriend Liz Hurley in their country house near Bath in southwestern England did not go well, the actress' mother said. Grant, the star of *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, was in Hollywood promoting his new movie when he was arrested Tuesday allegedly for engaging in sex with a prostitute in his white BMW. Angela Hurley told reporters that her daughter was "feeling down." "Liz rang me last night and she was not in particularly good spirits," the mother said. "Yesterday was a very difficult day, and things are certainly not easy. Liz told me her house was under siege at the moment." Hurley left the house alone Saturday.

**Japanese live longer and longer**

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese men and women, who have the world's longest life expectancy, extended it further last year, according to a government report released Sunday. A typical Japanese woman now lives 82.98 years, up nearly six months on the 1994 report. The average male lives 76.57 years, four months longer than the last time the Health and Welfare Ministry released its research. According to the ministry, Japanese women have had the world's longest life expectancy for the past nine years and men for the past eight years.

French women held the second longest life span of 80.94 years, while Icelandic men came second to their Japanese counterparts, living an average 75.74 years, the ministry report said.

**Tabloid: 'Divine Brown' did not recognise Grant**

LONDON (AP) — Prostitute Stella Marie Thompson said she didn't know Hugh Grant was a movie star until after they were arrested together in Los Angeles. A British newspaper said Sunday: "The 25-year-old prostitute, as saying Grant paid her \$60 for oral sex in his car. "I told him that for \$40 more we could've gone to a room — and never been caught," but he said he had only \$60 with him, the tabloid quoted her as saying. Grant and Ms. Thompson, who uses the name Divine Brown, and was convicted twice of prostitution in 1993, were arrested Tuesday and charged with public lewdness.

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## Japan subway mystery fumes injure 27

TOKYO (R) — At least 27 people were made ill by mystery fumes at a subway station in the Japanese port city of Yokohama Sunday, creating new poison-gas concerns for Japan.

The 27 were taken to hospital from the Kamioka Station in Yokohama, 30 kilometres west of Tokyo, after they were exposed to the fumes at about 3 p.m. (0600 GMT), a spokesman for the Yokohama Fire Department told Reuters.

All were complaining of sore throats and pain in their eyes but were "not in a serious condition," the spokesman said. No cause had been

identified, he added.

"We do not expect the number of people affected by the fumes to increase," he said.

Police were investigating, a police spokesman told Reuters, adding that no suspicious objects or materials had been found.

"This is a very deplorable incident. We are worried about a chain reaction by copy cats," the police spokesman said.

"I am not in a position to say anything," he told Reuters.

Cult leader Shoko Asahara and several top followers face murder and attempted-murder charges in connection with the Tokyo subway attack.

## Pope honours Protestants killed by Catholics

KOSICE, Slovakia (R) — Pope John Paul paid tribute to Protestants killed by Catholics in the 17th century Sunday as he made amends for perceived religious insensitivity during his visit to Slovakia.

He spoke of "praise and admiration" for martyrs of all Christian confessions after a service to confer sainthood on three Catholic priests tortured to death by Calvinist forces had alienated the minority Slovak Evangelical Church.

Addressing the open-air mass in the eastern city of Kosice, where the three priests were killed in 1619 during the Thirty Years War, the Pope told a huge crowd that Slovak Christians of various confessions had paid for their faith with their lives.

He made special mention of 24 Calvinists pastors executed in the Slovak town of Presov in 1687 by Catholic Habsburg forces, saying that the Roman Catholic Church could not fail to acknowledge their "spiritual greatness."

"To them and to all who accepted suffering and death out of fidelity to the dictates of their conscience the church gives praise and expresses admiration," the Pope said.

He was due to visit a monument to the 24 martyrs in Presov later Sunday in an unscheduled late addition to his four-day visit to strongly Catholic Slovakia.

Mr. Druet has previously been married and reportedly is waiting for an annulment of that marriage in order to wed Princess Stephanie in a Catholic ceremony.

Photographers kept 50 metres away by police nevertheless got pictures through a wrought iron fence of Stephanie in a white wedding gown with lace sleeves. Her dark brown hair falling over her shoulders, and Mr. Druet in a dark suit.

"Bravo, DD, you finally got her!" shouted a woman who had been waiting outside the town office. The woman, a blonde who looked in her late 20s, then strode off with her poodle.

The bells of Monaco's cathedral pealed across the tiny principality on France's Mediterranean coast.

The wedding put an end to a four-year battle between Princess Stephanie and her father over whether she would marry Mr. Druet, a former pet shop salesman and fishmonger who is known to be quick to get in fistfights.

Mr. Druet, the son of a Petanque (lawn bowling) champion and a Vespa scooter saleswoman, was a bodyguard in the service of Monaco's palace. He and Princess Stephanie met when, at the suggestion of Prince Rainier, Mr. Druet was assigned to protect the princess during a promotional tour during Princess Stephanie's short-lived career as a rock singer in 1988.

The couple discreetly entered the hotel via an outside staircase as helicopters carrying photographers buzzed overhead.

Prince Rainier and his son Prince Albert, heir to the throne and Princess Stephanie's elder brother, attended the wedding but not the dinner.

Despite the parental opposition, the couple have just returned from a holiday in the Canary Islands with their children.

"I have no doubt in my mind," he said. "I'm sure

## Mandela arrives in Tokyo for 5-day visit

TOKYO (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela arrived in Tokyo Sunday for an official five-day visit to meet Japanese government and business leaders.

Japanese officials described Mr. Mandela's visit as a "symbolic event" to mark a new era of bilateral relations.

Mr. Mandela was expected to win renewed assurances of economic and political support from Tokyo, Japanese officials said.

Beside formal state functions, Mr. Mandela, on his

third trip to Japan since 1990, will attend lunches hosted by business leaders in Tokyo. He will visit South Korea for three days after leaving Japan Thursday.

Mr. Mandela was being accompanied by Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo. He is scheduled to meet Japanese leaders including Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Emperor Akihito.

Diplomatic sources in Johannesburg said Mr. Mandela's office said Mr. Mandela's office said in a statement Saturday.

4 S. Africa miners die in failed rescue bid

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four miners killed by a fire about a mile (1.6 km) beneath the surface of a South African gold mine died in a failed bid to rescue two colleagues trapped behind a curtain of smoke, officials said Sunday.

The stop, on the way to a meeting with Eastern rite Catholics in Presov later Sunday in an unscheduled late addition to his four-day visit to strongly Catholic Slovakia.

Photographs of the miners, who had been working at the mine for about a week, showed them lying on the floor of the mine, their faces blackened by smoke. They were overcome as they tried to get back above the smoke wall.

"The heroism and the selflessness of the... miners who risked their lives to save their fellow workers serves as an inspiring example to us all," Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said in a statement.

Andrew Davidson, spokesman for Gencor's mining division Gingold, told Reuters the fire broke out in a disused store between 25 and 24 level, about 1,600 metres (5,250 feet) underground

# World News



Thousands of demonstrators march in the streets of Paris to protest the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. The move was paralleled on the other side of

## Australia to launch anti-nuke campaign in France

CANBERRA (Agencies) —

An Australian advertising agency said Sunday it planned an emotive campaign in France to protest against Paris' decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Saatchi and Saatchi Australia said it hoped its advertisements could run in French newspapers next week.

"We have produced three advertisements, one of which depicts a World War II tombstone, to remind the French people that Australians lost and risked their lives in that country to protect them from bombs such as this," said chief executive David Birrell.

"We are hoping to receive corporate and government support to be able to mount an effective campaign, targeting the French people," Mr. Birrell said in a statement.

The Australian public reacted angrily to French President Jacques Chirac's decision last month to cut eight more underground tests at the Mururoa Atoll test site in French Polynesia.

France's consulate in Perth, western Australia was firebombed.

The Australian govern-

ment, which condemned the decision, has also frozen defence ties with France and cancelled most military ship and aircraft visits until the testing finishes next May.

The government also said it would discuss with others in the South Pacific the possibility of a joint regional publicity campaign in France.

"We think that to be the best in the world, we have to show the rest of the world that we are a nuclear power. I think it's really stupid," demonstrator David Boisseau told Associated press Television.

"You don't test nuclear war," read a banner held up by the Union of Communist Students. "We are all Polynesians," read another.

"We will be able to make Chirac backtrack," said Alain Krivine, a Trotskyist leader of the far left, adding that the anti-nuclear movement would gain momentum after summer vacation.

Meanwhile, environmentalists in French Polynesia Sunday prepared to take part in a fresh round of demonstrations in the capital, Papeete, to protest France's decision.

The "symbolic action"

held in Mulhouse, eastern France, in Bordeaux and in the southern town of Belley, of which Defence Minister Charles Millon is mayor.

In Paris, marchers from the environmental group Greenpeace joined politicians representing ecology, the Socialist and Communist parties.

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The "symbolic action"

would mark the 29th anniversary of the first French atmospheric test in the Pacific on July 2, 1966, and would come after demonstrators blocked roads into Papeete the third day running Saturday.

A "peace fleet" made up of various Tahitian anti-nuclear and pro-independence groups have said they will pursue their protest against the French decision until territorial government leader Gaston Flosse — a longtime friend of Mr. Chirac — replies to their demand for a referendum on the new tests.

Only pedestrians and

emergency service vehicles have been allowed past barricades at the main eastern and western entrances to Papeete.

Petrol stations in Papeete are starting to run out of fuel and supermarket stocks are also running low. Tourists arriving at Fa'a Airport are taken into the town by sea

ferries.

French Polynesia officials have admitted surprise at the extent of the protests, but said there was no way a referendum could be held in the territory.

But his challenger, former cabinet minister John Redwood, said the fight was not over, although an opinion poll showed Mr. Major's support was rising among Conservative members of parliament who will choose the party leader Tuesday.

"It is still a very open competition," Mr. Redwood told interviewer David Frost on BBC Television.

Despite Mr. Major's optimism, newspapers warned that he must win convincingly to avoid a knock on the door by the so-called "men in grey suits" — the Conservatives' powerful backroom grandees — asking him to step down in the interests of the party.

The Orangi operation appears to be the first phase of a wider cleanup drive as the government has vowed to crush what it calls an insurgency by MQM with support from India to destabilise Pakistan.

The party denies the allegation and says it is struggling against large scale victimisation and "genocide" of the Urdu-speaking community by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The security forces were

## Pakistani troops, Karachi militants clash

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistani paramilitary troops faced stiff armed resistance Sunday when they moved in to arrest militants of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Witnesses said at least one soldier and one policeman were killed in pitched battles which turned the western Orangi district into a war zone.

MQM casualties were not immediately known and a paramilitary officer said the militants might have removed their dead and injured before pulling back.

The sound of heavy automatic gunfire echoed continuously after the security forces cordoned off Orangi to arrest assailants who Saturday attacked an armoured personnel carrier (APC), injuring an officer and two of his men.

Before the operation, mobile telephone companies

operating in Karachi were asked to switch off their systems to deny militants communications facilities, an official said.

At least 1,000 troops and police were taking part in the operation and between 70 and 100 militants were believed to be fighting under a dozen leaders, security officials said.

The officials said the militants belonged to MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants who came to Pakistan from India after the partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

MQM is blamed by the government for much of the prolonged violence that has claimed nearly 900 lives, including 100 troops and policemen, this year. Some 350 people died last month.

The party accused the government of curbing political and social rights of Urdu-speakers.

also making house-to-house searches.

The actual area besieged by the forces was roughly one square kilometre, but troops also fanned out up to six kilometres (four miles) around it.

Orangi has a population of about 600,000. Officials said many people had fled their homes because of fighting in the area over the past few days.

The Orangi operation

appears to be the first phase of a wider cleanup drive as the government has vowed to crush what it calls an insurgency by MQM with support from India to destabilise Pakistan.

The party denies the allegation and says it is struggling against large scale victimisation and "genocide" of the Urdu-speaking community by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The security forces were

## Opposition seen ahead in Thai poll projections

BANGKOK (R) — Projections based on vote counts compiled by television stations showed the main opposition Chart Thai (Thai Nation) Party winning the most parliamentary seats in Sunday's general election in Thailand.

The projections based on information from vote-counting centres across the country showed Chart Thai,

led by Banharn Silpa-Archa, likely to win over 90 seats in a close race with Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's Democrat Party.

The Democrats were projected to finish second with slightly fewer than 90 seats in the 391-seat House of Representatives.

The leader of the largest party traditionally becomes

prime minister and forms a coalition government with other parties.

Parties coming third and fourth, respectively, were the Chart Pattana (National Development) Party and New Aspiration Party, which are projected to come fifth with more than 20 seats.

Mr. Chuan dissolved parliament in May after a land reform scandal surrounding the Democrats led to the break-up of his five-party coalition.

The Bangkok-based Palang Dharma Party led by

Telcomunications tycoon Thaksin Shinawatra, who was contesting his first election, was projected to come fifth with more than 20 seats.

Mr. Chuan dissolved parliament in May after a land reform scandal surrounding the Democrats led to the break-up of his five-party coalition.

The OAU warned at its annual summit last week that it could not afford a second Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered last year.

Bujumbura became a mainly attended by Tutsi members of his UPRONA party. Few Hutus were in the crowd.

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"I am confident that... an enduring peace could well be

## Fleeing Huts urged to return to Bujumbura

BUJUMBURA (R) — Authorities in Burundi are urging thousands of Hutus who fled the recent fighting in the capital to return to their homes in Bujumbura.

But the returning residents must register individually with the authorities in the city — a move apparently designed to keep out the armed Hutu militias who have been accused of attacking units of the Tutsi-dominated Burundi army.

Burundi Radio broadcast the calls for return late Saturday, after a rare day of calm in Bujumbura, which for weeks has echoed with the sound of gunfire and grenade explosions.

On Sunday there was no sign of any significant movement of Hutus back into the

city, but local officials said they expected to see people returning to their homes soon.

They said arrangements were in hand to register all people returning, but would not comment on suggestions that this was a move to bar members of Hutu militias.

Tutsi Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo led festivities in the capital Saturday, marking 33 years of independence from Belgium. He warned that without peace in the country foreign powers might be tempted to intervene to sort out the ethnic mess which has led to the killing of thousands in the last two years.

Mr. Nduwayo spoke at a ceremony in Bujumbura's National Stadium which was

mainly attended by Tutsi members of his UPRONA party. Few Hutus were in the crowd.

UPRONA, the ruling party before the introduction of multi-party politics in 1993, is allied with the majority FRODEBU party, supported mainly by Hutus, in the government.

President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu, took part in separate Independence Day ceremony at Gitega, a region with a mainly Hutu population.

The OAU warned at its annual summit last week that it could not afford a second Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered last year.

Burundi has the same racial mix as neighbouring Rwanda.

"I am confident that... an enduring peace could well be

at hand here in Mindanao. This in turn will lead to an outburst of economic growth... such as Mindanao has never seen," he said.

Government and rebel

parties are trying to reach

agreement so the provisional

government can be established before regional elections next March.

Mr. Ramos told Manila and

Christian politicians from

the troubled Mindanao in a month.

He has been trying to per-

suade local politicians

opposed to any MNLF ascen-

dency to support his peace

efforts.

Officials have said the pro-

visional government would

hold office for about a year.

Elections would then be held

to select a regular regional

parliament.

One proposal being stud-

ied by Manila and the

MNLF is for the provi-

sional government to be headed by

MNLF Chairman Nur Mis-

uri. He would be assisted by

Muslim and Christian de-

puties, rebel sources said.

More than 50,000 people

have died since 1972 in the

MNLF-led war in the region,

regarded as the ancestral

home of the country's five

million Muslim minority.

The urgency of a peace

agreement has been hastened

by the emergence of Muslim

extremist groups opposed to

peace talks, officials and re-

bels have said.

Fifty-three people, mostly

Christians, were killed when

armed men linked by the

military to the radical Abu

Sayyaf faction pillaged Ipi

town last April.

The MNLF has split into

several factions, with the

Abu Sayyaf the most radical.

Meanwhile, a statement

issued Sunday in the name of

a Communist rebel death

squad warned Philippine oil

industry leaders and execu-

tives of foreign oil companies

that they would be attacked if

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## Codes encumber dreams

IT MUST be very difficult for the Arab League "committee of experts," which is currently meeting in Cairo, to achieve its stated aim and work out a code of honour to govern relations between Arab states. Rather than "honour," relations between Arab states in the past 40 years have unfortunately been driven by self-interest, power alliances and mutual suspicions. Thus, based on the experiences of the past four decades alone, we doubt that the Arab World can get its act together on abstract concepts and any kind of moral codes on their own.

The age-old dream of the "Arab Nation," still very strong in the hearts of most Arabs, and the stated aim of many Arab leaders to "unite" that nation from the "Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf," has of course been a noble cause. But it has proved to be just that — a dream. Now, towards the end of the century and the start of a new millennium, it seems that the Arab nation-states as mostly created by foreign powers at the beginning of this century are here to stay.

This is why perhaps we have to cast another shadow of doubt on the proposed code of honour. What we should be concentrating on instead is the need to work out a new model for relations between our countries. The European experiment is worth studying in this regard. But first and foremost the Arab states need to come up with new practical methods to end the era of mutual fears, suspicions and mistrust. Boundaries have to be worked out, delineated and fixed. Claims and counter-claims must be settled. In effect a new definition for the Arab Nation, and ways of realising it, has to be devised. Perhaps the Cairo meeting of the "experts," or for that matter any different group, should look at the tasks differently and come up with a declaration of a Rome-type understanding. It is unfortunate that the Arab League itself is being crippled by its own charter and archaic ways of doing business. It also is unfortunate that neither the League nor its members would cooperate on institutional basis with Arab think-tanks and grassroot organisations, such as the Beirut-based Centre for Arab Unity Studies. That centre, to name only one, has produced over the years a wealth of studies on matters related to Arab integration or disintegration.

It is most discouraging to think that we in the Arab World are not yet ready to tackle our problems in scientific and pragmatic ways. It is frightening to feel that we will not do so before we sink still deeper in the quagmire of our own differences and petty quarrels.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily said Sunday that the situation between Egypt and Sudan these days reflect the actual tension that prevails among other Arab countries. The leaderships in Cairo and Khartoum could for the time being avert military confrontation but who knows what might happen in the future because the present enmity as displayed on the part of Sudan and Egypt towards each other has brought matters to a head, said Taher Al Adwan. Indeed, said the writer, relations among Arab countries since the Gulf crisis have been more restrained than ever before; because Arab leaders failed to resort to reason and preferred hostile stands towards one another. The writer that the situation has deteriorated to such a degree that it became impossible for 10 out of more than 20 Arab leaders to meet under one roof to discuss serious questions besetting the Arab World. Any observer of the situation in the Arab World, continued the writer, can expect war to flare up between Syria and Iraq, between Egypt and Sudan and between Algeria and Morocco in view of the hostile stands these countries are displaying towards one another.

SABAH MADANI, a writer in Al Ra'i, discussed the question of rising prices of basic foodstuffs in Jordan. Expressing solidarity with the limited and low-income groups who are bearing the brunt, Citizens who could be classified as middle class are unable to buy their needs of fruits and vegetables while the low-income groups and the needy feel that obtaining such commodities is a desire beyond reach due to soaring prices, said the writer. Wondering why the soaring cost of living hit Jordan, which used to appear as an oasis of stability, the writer said ordinary citizens whose income has not increased to a degree enabling them to buy their needs are appalled at the situation and are helpless. Help, he said, can only come from the Ministry of Supply, which is supposed to control prices and prevent any manipulations and profiteering on the part of the greedy merchants. It is unreasonable, added the writer, to see the ministry failing to do its duty and allowing the merchants a free hand in the local markets, said the writer who stressed the need for immediate intervention on the part of the concerned authorities to end the plight of the Jordanian citizens in general and the need, among them in particular.

## Human Rights File

By Waleed Sa'di

### Criminals must be punished

**ABOLITIONISTS**, MEANING those who are opposed to the death penalty, rest their case, inter alia, on the premise that people who commit crimes are not really responsible for their action. According to the thesis of the abolitionists, criminals are not self-made criminals but are the products of their environment, be that social, economic or psychological. This is not to mention the genetic factor, which is that people who commit heinous crimes inherit the tendency to do so from their immediate and distant parents.

This proposition, which attempts to exonerate offenders of the law from responsibility, has divided scientists and jurists alike. If it turns out to be true that whatever wrong we commit is not of our own making but the product of circumstances beyond our control, then the entire penal system is open to questioning.

Strangely enough, people who are opposed to capital punishment would have no qualms about the imprisonment of individuals committing offences on the theory that keeping them incarcerated and away from the public is away of protecting society from "ill people" without imposing a real punishment on them. In other words, for such a school of thought, the detention of criminals is not really a punishment but a method to protect society from people prone to perpetrating serious offences. According to the logic of this submission, imprisoned people must be rehabilitated during their incarceration and made socially adapted to live according to the rules and regulations that civilised societies have articulated and adopted.

I personally do not buy this line of thinking altogether: even though I understand the impact of environment and hereditary factors on human behaviour. It is scientifically proven that we inherit many genes that determine our behaviour. We are also affected by our environment in many ways. Still if we accept the proposition that man, unlike animals, is a thinking being capable of distinguishing right from wrong under even the most trying circumstances, then "punishment" per se becomes part and parcel of man's environment that helps shape her or his judgement on law and order issues.

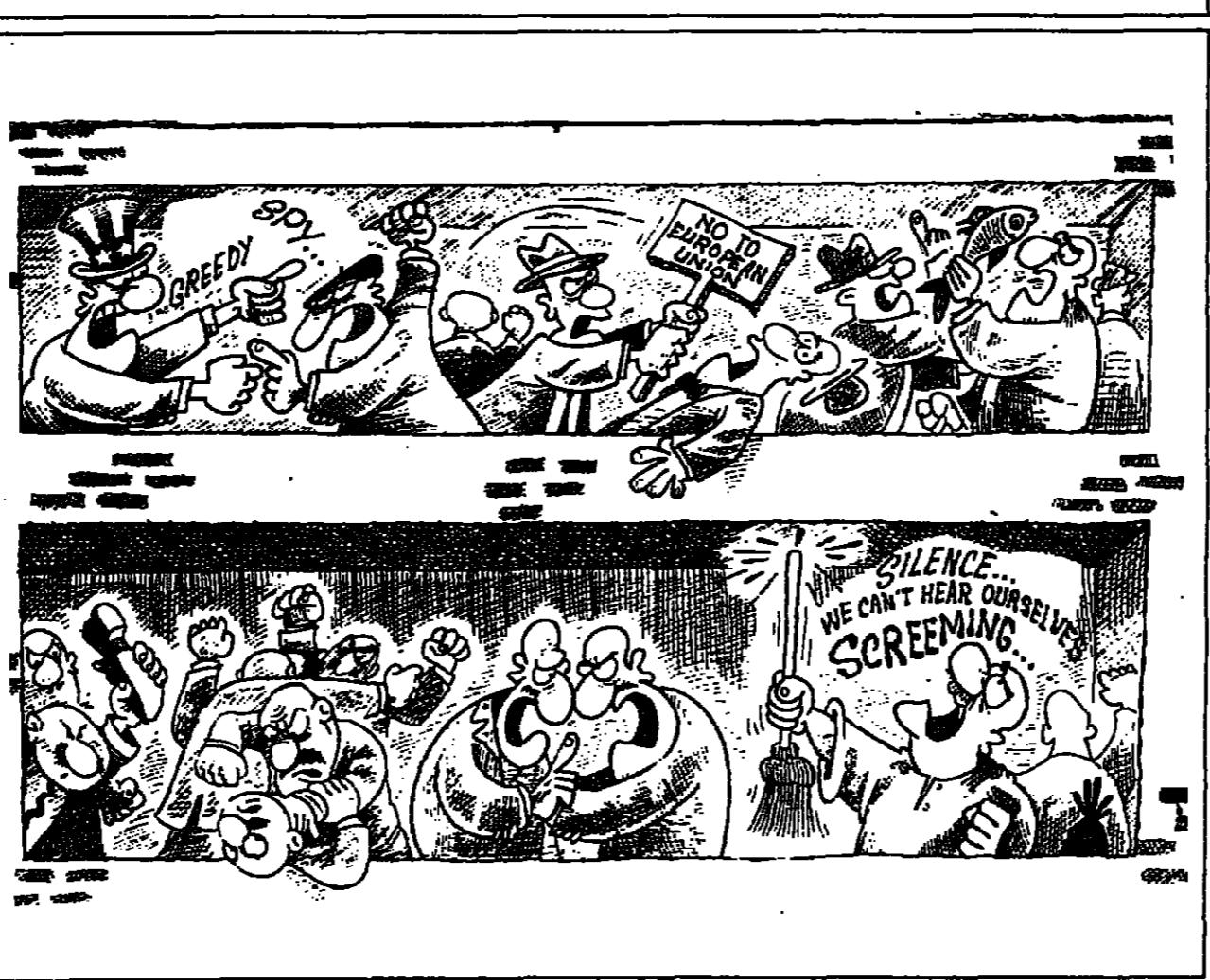
Understandably many psychologists dispute the validity of deterrence that lies behind punishment. On the other

hand there are many social scientists and anthropologists who support this premise.

Let's take a simple example to illustrate this point. In countries where there is stiff punishment for traffic offenders, it was found that accidents on the streets and highways of such countries are considerably reduced. If, for example, we in Jordan begin to hand out heavy fines on drivers not heeding stop signs, we will in not time have this problem out of our system of driving and at the end reduce the primary causes of traffic violations to a bare minimum.

The same goes, for other offences, be they economic or social. If people who keep on murdering their sisters or wives in the name of honour stop being softly treated by our judicial system, there is no doubt in my mind that sooner than later people would think many times before they commit such crimes. If people who sexually attack children and murder them know that they will be apprehended at one stage or another and that there would be no escape from capital punishment, I must presume that such a group of people could be deterred from perpetrating their crimes.

Some times wonder why, for example, crimes are on the rise in many industrial countries where there is a "soft" approach to crime. You cannot convince me that there is no correlation between this week treatment of criminals and the rate of crime. I certainly do not have the full answer to this controversy about legal responsibility for crime. Criminologists have still a long way to go before they can fully understand crime and punishment. There is obviously a need for a continuing research into this vexing subject before man knows best how to deal with criminals. As for me the case has yet to be made against punishment as a deterrent. And when a man or a woman knowingly takes the life of an innocent person, then the appropriate punishment must be meted that would make others similarly poised to think about taking other lives. If we must deny society the duty to take the life of a criminal who commits cold blooded murder because that would be uncivilised, then we must find an effective way to convince killers not to take the lives of innocent people because that would be also an uncivilised behaviour.



### Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: Unwanted, uncounted

NO PALESTINIANS are as cruelly trapped as the refugees in Lebanon. Israel will not let them return to their homeland; Lebanon will not let them settle in their adopted country. Their life is harsh and growing harsher; their future entirely opaque.

Most of Lebanon's Palestinians come from Galilee or Israel's coastal cities, and are therefore unlikely to benefit from the modest repatriation schemes which concentrate on refugees who have relations in Gaza or the West Bank or who were displaced by the 1967 war. Meanwhile, opposition to Palestinian "implantation" is an issue that unites the disunited Lebanese. Rejection of implantation was written into the Taif accords of 1989 which ended the civil war, thus implicitly blaming the Palestinians for the 15 years of fighting.

Wrapped up in their own post-war anxieties, the Lebanese spare no thought for others. The fact that the Palestinians were once a relatively powerful group gives their fall a touch of nemesis. As a result of this public indifference, the government is free to do things that make living conditions for the Palestinians ever more untenable pushing them deliberately towards migration — though they have nowhere to migrate to.

The most effective of these moves is the constraint on living space. Because the Palestinians are

excluded from all Lebanese public services and from most salaried jobs, they are uniquely dependent on the refugee camps which, through the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), provide free or low-rent housing and on-the-spot social services.

Twelve of the original 17 camps have survived the war. No expansion at all is permitted. The Lebanese government has vetoed the creation of new camps, the reconstruction of camps that were destroyed in the fighting, and even any rebuilding, financed by UNRWA inside the camps that still exist. Such space as remains is threatened by the rebuilding of Beirut: Shatila camp is likely to be engulfed in the expansion of the Sports City, wide highways stop just short of both Ain Hilweh and Bourj Barajneh.

The eviction of Palestinians, squatting in the city after being displaced from their camps by the war, began in late 1993 and continues discreetly, building by building. Evicted families may be paid indemnities of up to \$5,000, but this is not enough to buy them somewhere to live, even in camps where the veto on UNRWA reconstruction has produced a rash of illegal, speculative building. Once people receive an indemnity, UNRWA crosses them off its list of homeless families. What happens to them then? They go from shanty-town to shanty-town, the bulldozers following them.

The most effective of these moves is the constraint on living space. Because the Palestinians are

Lebanon continues to refuse to extend civil rights to the Palestinians, in particular the right to work. This month around 20 Palestinian doctors will go on trial for practising a profession limited to Lebanese members of the medical union. The authorities — and the Palestinians were better off when there was no central authority — justify their actions with talk of the country's economic difficulties, an argument at odds with Lebanon's belief in the free market. Palestinians believe, with some justice, that the Lebanese are trying to force them out through poverty.

But, in fact, the creation of poverty is not increasing refugee emigration. More and more doors are closed to them. Since the end of the civil war, countries such as Germany, Denmark and Sweden have stopped giving asylum to Palestinians from Lebanon. No Arab country except Libya allows them in. Canada accepts only Palestinians with professional qualifications and/or bank accounts. This undermines the point that it is precisely those refugees whom Lebanon would most like to get rid of — the poor, the under-qualified — who are least able to emigrate.

Since the start of the Israeli-PLO peace process, international aid for Palestinian refugees has been skewed towards Gaza (less to the West Bank) and away from the refugees "outside." To make matters worse, the decline in aid, both from the U.N.

and from relief agencies, has coincided with the phasing out of the PLO as provider of jobs, pensions, scholarship, and medical services.

One peculiarity of the Palestinians' situation in Lebanon is how little is known about it. Even the size of the community is a matter of dispute: UNRWA works on the assumption of 338,000 people, but that is the roughest of guides. There are few health statistics, despite a health-care crisis. Facts essential for the intelligent deployment of aid, the number of female-headed households, orphans and old people on their own, mortality rates, children of school-age out of school — simply do not exist. This lack of knowledge discourages people who might otherwise have tried to do something to help.

Syria, which in the end takes the decisions about Lebanon, has given no indication of its position on the refugees. Some people believe that Syria is not opposed to reopening the Lebanese-Palestinian negotiations that have been frozen since the Israeli-Palestinian talks began. Others think that, with two big issues looming — Lebanon's presidential election and Israeli-Syrian peace talks — the Syrians will not allow anything to disturb stability in Lebanon. The Syrians may well prefer to keep the Palestinians as a card in their hands.

The Economist

### Iran, Iraq driven together by common foe

By Anwar Faruqi

The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Seven years after their 1980-88 war, Iran and Iraq remain divided by a sea of differences. But Washington's efforts to isolate the gulf giants may be driving them closer together.

So far, the visible results are few. But the recent increase in high-profile meetings raises the spectre of a reconciliation between the two countries that Washington considers most dangerous to its interests.

Over the past few years both have demonstrated their abilities to undermine U.S. interests — Iraq by threatening oil supplies with its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iran by opposing the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process.

They are among seven nations the U.S. government had officially labelled "sponsors of international terrorism."

In a recent dispatch, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency referred to a Tehran-Baghdad alliance as "a nightmare scenario" for the West.

Some observers see Iran and Iraq's professed attempt at reconciliation as little more than a warning to the United States.

"The main motivation for Iran's gesture toward Iraq is that Tehran is trying to highlight to Washington the dangers of pushing it too far," Vahid Petrossian, an Iran specialist with the London-based Middle East Economic Digest, said in a telephone interview.

Ever since the Clinton administration formulated its "dual containment" policy targeting Iran and Iraq nearly two years ago, the historic foes have professed a new desire to end their differences.

Last month President Bill Clinton imposed a trade embargo on Iran for allegedly pursuing a covert nuclear weapons programme.

Iran also has backed Iraq in opposition to the U.N.-backed "safe haven" created five years ago to protect Iraq's 3.5 million Kurdish minority.

But these shared interests are dwarfed by the differences between the two neighbours.

Over the past five years the two have exchanged about 75,000 prisoners of war, but both claim thousands more remain. In addition, the Iranians want about \$1 trillion in war reparations from Iraq, which is keen to get back 115 military planes and 30 airliners it flew to Iran for safekeeping during the 1991 Gulf war.

There's also an unsettled border dispute over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the two countries' southernmost boundary, and the issue of outlawed opposition groups operating from each other's territory.

## LETTERS

### Facts distorted

To the Editor:

I AM writing to clarify a misleading Associated Press story reprinted in the June 18 edition of the Jordan Times. The story, under the heading "News in Brief," called "Study blames Arab-Americans for bad relations," is distorted and in fact, an inaccurate portrayal of the findings of the study that was prepared by the Arab-American Institute.

The study did not try assigning blame for the violence in Arab-American merchants over the past two years. The study instead sought to delve into the origins of the phenomenon and discovered that the situation in Cleveland's inner-city is not unlike the problems that face other American inner-cities where different ethnic and immigrant groups are brought together by depressed economic conditions.

The study found that in this situation the strife was between Arab-Americans and African Americans although it could just as easily have been between Korean-Americans and Hispanic-Americans. The study offered suggestions to Cleveland city officials on how to improve community relations between the two groups. Included among these were the hiring of Arabic-speaking city employees, increased funding to municipal youth centres and sensitivity training for police and health inspectors.

The study did not blame Arab-Americans or African-Americans. As I mentioned in the introduction to the study, there are two victim communities in this tragedy pitted by history, circumstances and economic forces against each other.

James J. Zogby,  
President,  
Arab-American Institute,  
Washington.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

# Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1995 7

## Diplomacy seen as inhospitable career for women

By Anthony Goodman  
Reuter

**UNITED NATIONS** — Although women have made advances in many fields in recent decades, diplomacy does not appear to be one of them, according to a U.N. report.

"Throughout its 50 years of history, the vast majority of the delegates selected by their national governments to represent their countries at United Nations bodies have been male," the report said. "Women continue to be largely absent in the highest ranks of the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York," it added.

In 1989, when the world body had 159 members compared with 185 now, women accounted for 20 per cent of the diplomatic personnel of permanent missions. Fifty-seven of the delegations had no women on their diplomatic staff.

"As of January 1994, only seven mission out of 187 (including two observer missions) were headed by women. Among the 240 delegates holding ambassadorial rank, only 11 were women," added the report, titled "Participation of Women in Political Life and Decision-Making."

"Of the total diplomatic staff of missions, women represented only 22 per cent. In the permanent missions of 67 member states, there were no

women at all.

"The figures reflect negligible increase since 1949, when women at the diplomatic level in permanent missions to the United Nations constituted 16 per cent of the total."

Of the 49 presidents of the U.N. General Assembly elected since 1945, only two were women — Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India in 1953 and Angie Brooks of Liberia in 1969.

Since the establishment of the 15-judge International Court of Justice at the Hague in 1945 there has not been a single woman judge.

Among the numerous U.N. conferences held since 1945 and headed by appointed senior U.N. officials, only six were headed by women, and four of those were world conferences on women.

Of the 89 executive heads of various organisations of the U.N. system elected or appointed by member states, there have been no women.

But four women have been confirmed by the U.N. General Assembly as heads of major U.N. programmes. They are Satoko Ogata of Japan, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; Catherine Bertini of the United States, executive director of the World Food Programme; Elizabeth Dowdswell of Canada, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme and Dr. Nafis Sadik of Pakistan, executive director of the U.N. Population Fund.

## Egypt warns Tourabi

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile in Jeddah, the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to intervene personally in the crisis between the two countries.

The revolution will not retreat from its course of Islam and peace," Gen. Bashir told thousands gathered in a conference hall.

"They will not be able to hinder our march."

Sudanese leaders sounded a common theme Sunday, calling Egypt's charges part of Western plot to undermine the Islamic regime. Sudan has poor relations with most of its neighbours, particularly Egypt and Eritrea, which accuse it of training militants. The United States says Sudan is among states supporting terrorism.

"Sudan is the lightning torch of Islam in the region and they want to extinguish this light," Sudan's culture and information minister, Abd Basit Sabdar, told the Associated Press.

He said Sudan still feared an Egyptian attack despite public statements to the contrary and promised that Sudanese are "ready to sacrifice our blood to protect our land and honour."

War with Egypt was always unlikely, and Egypt's 440,000-strong army greatly outclasses its Sudanese counterpart. But both countries have sought to use the dispute to rally flagging support.

Egyptian Information Minister Sufat Al Sherif warned Sudan it "should understand that all options are open to President Mubarak and they are limitless in the face of any act or procedure that threatens Egyptian national security or provokes the feelings of Egyptians."

He added that Sudanese "should stop beating the drums of war and stop issuing empty threats to cover up the crime they committed."

A Sudanese vendor summed up fears that the dispute could get out of hand, leading to a standoff in which neither backs down.

"People are afraid that both regimes might find it useful for their own selfish purposes to go to war if that will serve their interests," Awad Razouq said in a downtown Khartoum market.

Iraq, an ally of Sudan, also joined the fray on Sunday.

An Iraqi government session, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, called on the Egyptian people not to let their leaders use Egypt's military as "a big stick" against Sudan. Iraqi media reported Sunday, quoting a government spokesman.

## Hardliners plan next refuge, fearing Israel-Syria peace

**DAMASCUS** (AFP) — Hardline Palestinian groups opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are under no illusions about what a peace deal between Israel and Syria would mean for them: a move to another country.

The groups opposed to the Palestinians' peace process with Israel have spent much of their lives moving from one Arab capital to another and are already contemplating where they might go next if a peace deal is reached.

"After Damascus we will find another suitable, safe place," said Fathi Shakaki, secretary general of Islamic Jihad, one of the main opposition groups, who insisted a relocation would

have no effect on anti-Israeli attacks.

"Our presence in Syria is transitory and an accord between this country and Israel would not affect our action inside Palestine because we send neither men nor weapons from Damascus. Our mujahedeen (fighters) are inside the border as well as our weapons," he said.

Mr. Shakaki, 44, is no stranger to moving on. He was expelled from the Gaza Strip to Lebanon in 1988 and settled in Damascus a year later. Since then he has spent long periods in Libya, Lebanon and Algeria.

His career with Islamic Jihad, he said, began in 1979 when he was a medical stu-

dent at Zagazig University in the Nile Delta, Egypt, and created the nucleus of the group with other Palestinian students.

Mr. Shakaki, like many Palestinian activists in exile here, insists that help offered to the groups by Syria is not the key to their military operations and requires confidence about the political future of the movements.

The Palestinian Islamist movements have become a factor in the political equation of the Middle East that cannot be ignored," he said. "Our presence abroad is symbolic and our role is more to do with public relations."

Abu Mohammad Mustafa, the Damascus representative

of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said his group would also not be affected militarily if it was forced to leave Syria. "That would not affect the heart of our organisation in the West Bank and Gaza," he said.

Mr. Mustafa, a member of the Hamas political office, said his organisation's presence in Damascus was already "very limited."

The leader of another Palestinian faction said Hamas was already being careful about publicising its activities in the Syrian capital.

"Trips to Damascus by the president of Hamas to his political office, Mousa Abu Marzouk, are surrounded by the

greatest discretion," said the activist, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Abu Marzouk paid a discreet visit to Damascus this week before going to Cairo on Wednesday for meetings with Egyptian leaders," he added.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), would also not rule out an eventual departure from Damascus, although he too minimised the potential effects.

"Syria provides us with logistical support. If it is maintained all the better, if it is withdrawn from us, that would not make a great deal of difference because it is a

secondary issue," he said. "Between 1983 and 1993, relations between the DFLP and Damascus were frosty because the DFLP refused to support the split (recommended by Damascus at the time) within Yasser Arafat's PLO movement," said Mr. Hawatmeh, who kept a second home in Algeria during those years.

Abu Ali Mustafa, the deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also acknowledged that a peace treaty between Israel and Syria would have an impact on his movement's political activities in Damascus.

"But there's a long way to go before, any such agreement is reached," he said.

## A condiment 'worth its weight in gold'

By Rimal Cortbawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

FROM THE bosom of our Jordanian nature springs a condiment, which, to those informed of its diverse uses, "is worth its weight in gold," according to biologist Khamis Bitar, owner of Systema Scientific Research Centre.

Those who heard about fenugreek, otherwise called "hilbeh," know for sure that it has both internal and external use for the body. "I have it in the morning because it is good for the kidneys," says housekeeper Hanneh Hijazeen. "I believe it nurtures the complexion," says lawyer Randa Zalatimo.

Yet, in spite of its numerous benefits, "many individuals do not know of the existence of hilbeh," says internist Ala' Toukan.

Though gaining significant recognition in folk medicine, especially amongst the older generations, "some therapeutic effects of hilbeh have only

given 100 per cent positive results with tests on animal models," says Munib Saket, professor of pharmaceutics and dean of pharmacy at the Applied Science University. But many of the benefits have stood the test of time and are "taken for granted," according to Mr. Bitar, by the numerous seekers of these nutritious plant seeds.

"There are over 200 'attar' (perfume and herb vendors) in Jordan, and they all sell hilbeh," says Mr. Bitar. "We have between 15 and 17 thousand customers from all levels and classes of society, and they always come asking for fenugreek seeds or products containing them," he stressed.

Although indigenous to North Africa and India, fenugreek seeds are now cultivated in many European countries. As one of the oldest known medical plants, fenugreek was highly thought of by Hippocrates, says Dr. Saket.

The first most authentic references to hilbeh were

done by Arab writers, and these go back to the first few centuries A.D., Dr. Saket says. These publications give rough descriptions of the seed components, which were later confirmed and expanded on in international pharmaceutical references, such as the British Pharmaceutical Codex and Martindale Extracta Pharmacopoeia.

"Among other useful chemicals, hilbeh contains 25 per cent, 6 per cent fat and is rich in vitamins and minerals," says Dr. Saket. Due to its various uses, he adds hilbeh was introduced in Europe as early as the 9th century A.D.

Medical uses of hilbeh include its action as a nutritive, laxative, digestive, throat soother and appetite booster, says Dr. Saket.

Tests on animal models, he adds have also proved fenugreek to be an antidiabetic substance that can also reduce blood levels of cholesterol and have shown that its aqueous extract can heal gastric ulcers, relax muscles and significantly in-

hibit liver carcinoma. "It is also used in China to treat cancer of the cervix," Dr. Saket adds.

It has recently been mentioned in a Jerusalem Post report that hilbeh has been proved to lower levels of cholesterol and blood sugar.

Being also a flavouring, hilbeh is used by Indians in making curry powder, according to Dr. Saket.

Total effects of hilbeh involve its use as an emollient and as treatment for cellulitis and certain unpleasant skin diseases. It has an almost spontaneous effect in poultice to treat boils, says Dr. Saket, and is particularly useful in relieving chill pains in the winter.

"In addition, hilbeh is particularly good in activating the process of lactation in women and is justifiably believed to act as an aphrodisiac in men," Dr. Saket says.

As a nutrient, hilbeh proved to be excellent in giving strength and energy

to the body." Patients are advised to take hilbeh during their post-operative convalescence period," says Dr. Saket. "Drinking aqueous hilbeh extract sweetened with honey every morning gives me and my wife our supply of energy to start our day's work," says Mr. Bitar.

Hilbeh has no side effects whatsoever, according to Mr. Bitar. "How can anyone go wrong with hilbeh when its sole disadvantage is its distinctive smell that normally engulfs the body (as responsible constituents are carried out with perspiration) and which is not unpleasant to all?" asks Mr. Bitar. Some people even like the smell of hilbeh, Mr. Bitar adds.

In France, he says, 80 per cent of the people use herbal oils for more than 90 per cent of illnesses.

"My wife prepares a cream from hilbeh and I use it daily, which is why hardly anyone believes that I am 70 years old," says Mr. Bitar.

## Serbs shell Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

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Asked about the likelihood of talks, Mr. Bildt replied: "It is possible, but it is not imminent."

Mr. Bildt, a former Swedish prime minister, arrived unexpectedly in Belgrade Saturday after being asked by the EU last week to resume contact with all parties to the conflict in a bid to relaunch the faltering peace process.

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Prisoners relaunch strike

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# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1995 9

## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## 'Tourism revenues to rise by 50%'

Jordan's revenues in the tourism sector this year are expected to increase by 50 per cent, compared to the previous year, Jordanian businessman Ziad Innab said. Mr. Innab, who is the chairman of the board of directors of the company owning the InterContinental Hotel, said hotel occupancy rates until last month were around 90 per cent. He said occupancy rates in five-star hotels currently stand at 70 per cent. He said that the recovery witnessed in the tourism sector has prompted investors to found new hotels and other tourism establishments. He said his company was currently working on expanding and modernising the hotel by increasing investments by \$12-13 million. This process, he noted, will increase the number of hotel rooms by 120, bringing the total number of rooms to 470 (Al Aswaq).

\*\* THE MINISTRY of Public Works and Housing will within the coming two weeks, refer a tender to expand the 72-kilometre, two-lane Ras Al Naqab road into a four-lane road, according to Director of the ministry's roads department Mohammmed Ensour. Mr. Ensour said the JD 34 million project will be financed by the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the Jordanian Treasury (Al Ra'i).

\*\* PRIME MINISTER Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the government still owns 10,200 shares in the Cairo-Amman Bank. The statement was made by Sharif Zeid in answer to a query by Lower House of Parliament member Fawwaz Zub'i (Al Aswaq).

\*\* MINISTER OF Finance Basel Jardaneh has recommended that the Council of Ministers exempt confectionary stores from paying sales tax. The exemption will be included in an amendment to the sales tax law which will be discussed soon by the Lower House of Parliament. The House will debate raising the tax from a current seven per cent to 10 per cent.

President of the Restaurant Owners Association Yassin Akash said it was unfair to charge taxes on sweets and noted that this might lead to reducing the volume of sales. He said that in spite of the introduction of the tax, restaurant owners have not hiked the prices of sweets produced by them (Al Dastour).

\*\* THE COUNCIL of Ministers has decided to set up a ministerial committee to study the prospect of carrying out a petroleum pipeline project between Jordan and Iraq aiming at reducing the cost of transporting oil to the Kingdom and reducing damages caused to roads as a result of transporting oil by trucks. The committee includes the ministers of planning, public works and housing, postal services and communications, transport and energy and mineral resources (Al Dastour).

## Officials extend deadline in scramble to salvage global finance deal

GENEVA (AP) — European Union trade ministers stepped in Friday to try to salvage a global pact that would liberalise trade in banking, insurance and securities with only limited U.S. participants, officials said.

With barely an hour to spare, the ministers persuaded other World Trade Organisation (WTO) countries to extend for four weeks the deadline that was to fall at Friday midnight.

The EU moved hours after hopes of a landmark agreement were scuttled when the United States rejected the package as inadequate.

The world has been working for the last 18 months to finalise an accord that would enable firms that deal in the huge and expanding financial services market to operate more freely in foreign countries.

Failure would be blow to world trade liberalisation prospects and could damage the credibility of the fledgling WTO overseeing the negotiations.

Faced with rejection by the world's largest economy, as the deadline approached,

He added that "there is no guarantee that bilateral negotiations outside the WTO can yield better results than those available now."

Delegates Thursday described as a "bombshell" the U.S. block of the long-negotiated market-opening measures which were offered by around 80 countries.

Washington said the offers from some South East Asian countries were inadequate. It said giving in to over-restrictive financial laws in some countries would allow "free riders" to profit from other more liberal markets.

However, the chief U.S. negotiator Jeffrey Lang said

the United States may be ready to participate more fully at a later date if WTO members decide on an interim agreement.

WTO Director General Renato Ruggiero called the U.S. pullback "extremely disappointing."

Speaking to the American International Club in Geneva Friday he warned: "A failure here could be bad news not only for the global economy and its growth prospects, but also for the (WTO) multilateral system and for all its member countries, including the United States."

He added that "there is no guarantee that bilateral negotiations outside the WTO can yield better results than those available now."

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Washington said the offers from some South East Asian countries were inadequate. It said giving in to over-restrictive financial laws in some countries would allow "free riders" to profit from other more liberal markets.

A deadline for the accord was fixed for June 30 this year in the hopes of reaching

a better deal. Washington has said that from July 1 it will back down from its open market offer of equal treatment for all made in December 93 and reserve the right to offer better market access to those countries who offer better deals to U.S. firms.

This contravenes a key WTO rule of offering equal access to all countries.

A senior ambassador to the WTO, speaking on condition that he not be named said a powerful industrial lobby in the United States had been putting pressure on the administration not to accept poor market opening offers saying this would be unfair to American companies.

The talks have been overshadowed by the recent U.S. dispute with Japan over automobiles, but in economic terms they are potentially more important.

International banking transactions among countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), totalled \$40 billion in 1992 and exports in insurance services were worth \$50 billion, according to the WTO.

## Top Indian official gives pledge on reforms

PARIS (R) — India's finance secretary assured international donors on Friday the country's free-market reforms would not be derailed by national elections due within a year.

"There is a very broad consensus across the political parties on the broad direction of reform," Montek Singh

Ahuwalia told a news conference. "India is on a path of reform which is not going to be derailed."

His comments came after a World Bank meeting in Paris where donor nations and multinational agencies pledged \$6.75 billion, up from the previous year's \$6.0 billion. Of that amount, some

40 per cent was in grants and interest-free loans.

There has been investor concern that the elections could mean the reforms launched in 1991 amid charges by some politicians that the changes are benefiting only the wealthy.

Mr. Ahluwalia would not comment on reports that a review panel set up by the new government of Maharashtra had urged scrapping a \$2.1 billion power project to be built by Enron Development Corp. of the United States without compensation.

"Virtually all the newly elected chief ministers (of states) have been going abroad and they have certainly not been taking a message that is negative on reform," he said.

## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (June 26-June 30, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit rose modestly against the yen and sterling at the end of last week, while stabilising against the mark. It ended the week 0.35 per cent higher against the yen and 0.78 per cent higher against sterling.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Monday, especially against European currencies. Political uncertainty in Great Britain after news that right wing British cabinet minister John Redwood, had decided to challenge John Major for the leadership of the conservative party contributed to the dollar's rise.

The U.S. unit declined against the mark and yen Tuesday, while appreciating marginally against sterling. It retreated to 1.3808 marks during trading hours, following the release of the U.S. Consumer Confidence report showing a decrease to 92.8 in June, compared to 102 in the previous month. The dollar rose later that day, however, affected by short covering.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Wednesday, following news that the U.S. and Japan had reached a trade agreement concerning the auto sector. The agreement was reached only hours before U.S. trade sanctions against Japan were to take effect.

The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies Thursday, however, affected by scepticism by some market participants concerning the U.S.-Japan trade deal the previous day. According to these participants, not only would the deal be difficult to implement, but it also covers only a small fraction of trade between the two countries. As such, they believe that the deal will have a minimum impact on the U.S. trade deficit. Meanwhile, fears of possible joint central bank intervention to prop up the dollar limited its decline.

The dollar rose Friday, influenced by the release of the University of Michigan Consumer Confidence Report showing a rise to 92.7 in June, compared to 89.8 in the previous months. Meanwhile, the dollar was little influenced by the release of the University of Chicago Purchasing Managers Index showing a decrease from 53.5 in May, to 47.6 in June.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.3815 marks, 84.65 yen and at \$1.5950 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Friday June - 23 - 1995 Close	Friday June - 30 - 1995 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.6973	1.5950	-0.78 %
Deutsche Mark	1.3853	1.3815	0.28 %
Swiss Franc	1.1475	1.1485	(0.09) %
French Franc	4.8620	4.8415	0.42 %
Japanese Yen	84.35	84.65	(0.35) %

\* USD vs STG

Currency	June - 23 - 1995	June - 30 - 1995	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	3-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.50	5.87	5.87		
Sterling Pound	6.50	7.12	6.60	7.43		
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.52	4.34	4.43		
Swiss Franc	2.93	3.12	2.87	3.12		
French Franc	6.88	6.25	6.96	6.25		
Japanese Yen	1.21	0.96	1.73	0.93		

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: July - 02 - 1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1015	1.1070
Deutsche Mark	0.5002	0.5027
Swiss Franc	0.6018	0.6048
French Franc	0.1428	0.1435
Japanese Yen*	0.8169	0.8210
Dutch Guilder	0.4467	0.4489
Swedish Krona	-	-
Italian Lira*	0.0424	0.0426
Belgian Franc	-	-

\* Per 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SEMEISAMI TELEPHONE: 607170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 02/07/1995



COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. DAY PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIC	520	114400	221,000 220,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4646	21284	4,620 4,570
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	250	345	1,380 1,380
JOHN HONDA BANK	6200	6883	6,500 6,500
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	6750	19103	2,610 2,830
JORDAN GULF BANK	2600	3355	1,290 1,300
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6016	22410	3,770 3,740
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	580	2649	4,590 4,570
BUSINESS BANK	2110	6346	3,990 3,950
BAKRAH KHALAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	150	548	3,650 3,650
ANGLO-EGYPTIAN FOR INVESTMENT	945	1061	1,180 1,180
PARALEL-VIA INVESTMENT BANK	2500	4160	1,690 1,660
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>43942</b>	<b>275895</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 182.00 CHANGE: -0.41%</b>
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 135.12 CHANGE: 0.00%</b>
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>141379</b>	<b>748797</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 132.21 CHANGE: +0.02%</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>108245</b>	<b>244244</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 132.41 CHANGE: +0.38%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>293616</b>	<b>1269007</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 157.33 CHANGE: -0.36%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	159985		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	206635		

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ROTA IN

## Kingdom's women's basketball team faces Syrian Al Jala' tonight

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's women's basketball team Monday have their first test for the upcoming Asian Championship when they face Syrian champions Al Jala' in the first of four friendly matches.

Al Jala's 16-member delegation had arrived in Amman Sunday on a week-long visit to the Kingdom on an invitation from the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF). In an interview with the Jordan Times, Al Jala's coach Nidal Farri said he hoped both teams will benefit from the matches and thanked the JBF for their invitation.

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Ourouba clubs starting July 19.

"The timing of these matches is very beneficial for our team. It is also undoubtedly important for the Jordanian team as they prepare for the Asian Championships. I wish them good luck, and hope they do well in Japan."

The four matches are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan, July 23-30.

Jordan's national team has been practising since January when the JBF announced the regrouping of the women's team after a 12-year absence from the basketball scene.

However citing the JBF's cash-strapped budget another four matches against a Ukrainian team were cancelled last week.

Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazireh twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished

second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Al Jala's coach said he expected a big improvement in Jordanian women's basketball. "When Al Jazireh played in Aleppo we easily beat them twice. However, a few months later in Amman we beat them again — but with difficulty," he added.

Al Jala's line-up includes five players on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk Club's powerful centre Elo Mouradian. Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdounour, Karla Maghames, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi. The team includes Reem Shakour, Nour Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aileen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Wa'ed Karroum.

The Kingdom's team is coached by Fadi Sabah and includes: Rana Hussein, Tala Mauej, Jumana Salhi, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makus, Andeira Qusseisieh, Teitana Oardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shaheed, Zein Sha'sha, Rania Al Dajani, Jihan Abdounour is also set to join the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in Beirut.

### Schedule of Matches

Monday 3/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Sports Palace 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Sports Palace 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 6/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m.

Friday 7/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m.



Mexican Fernando Platas shows controlled diving technique during the men's high board diving event at the International Springboard Diving tournament in Vienna (AFP photo)

## Schumacher wins French Grand Prix

MAGNY COURS, France (AFP) — World champion Michael Schumacher won his fourth race of the season here on Sunday when he dominated the French Grand Prix at the wheel of his Benetton Renault.

British rival Damon Hill, who had started from pole position and held the early race lead, took second place — half a minute ahead of Williams Renault teammate David Coulthard in third.

Schumacher wrested the lead from Hill in the 21st lap, when the Englishman made his first pit stop, and he did not surrender it for the rest of the race.

Instead the rest of the field fell inevitably behind the German, who extended his lead in the driver's championship from seven to 11 points over Hill.

Victory here came after Schumacher's earlier

triumphs this season at Brazil, Spain and Monaco and established him as unquestionably the dominant force in Formula One.

The victory will also have been all the sweeter after a tyre shortage, caused by Goodyear technicians who accidentally punctured two of his seven sets, had upset Schumacher on Saturday.

The Benetton team had appealed unsuccessfully for two new sets from the ruling International Automobile Federation.

Martin Brundle finished an agonising fourth in the Ligier, who celebrated their 30th grand prix here, after failing to get past Coulthard in the final bend following a tremendous battle between the two men.

Crowd favourite Jean Alesi of France, who was hoping to follow up his maiden win in Canada two weeks

ago, was a disappointing fifth in his Ferrari.

To the delight of the British fans, Hill made a fine start, hurtling from his pole position into the Grande Courbe turn and fending off Schumacher's desperate challenge to take the lead.

The two men soon broke away from a trio of pursuers featuring Rubens Barrichello in the Jordan, Coulthard and Olivier Panis in a Ligier.

Both Barrichello and Panis were later given a 10 sec 'stop and go' penalty for jumping the start.

Further back the Ferraris of Alesi and Gerhard Berger both spun on the third lap after Frenchman had nudged Schumacher's British teammate Johnny Herbert out of the race with an overtaking manoeuvre. Only the Ferraris were able to restart.

The incident briefly

with the British veteran bursting through the gap.

With a dozen laps gone Schumacher was still riveted to the back of the Hill's Williams-Renault, with Coulthard eight seconds further back and struggling to keep Brundle at bay. Alesi was a distant fifth, 20 sec off the pace.

After a series of vain attacks Schumacher finally took the lead on the 21st lap when Hill made his pit-stop, five minutes after the German had been in for a fresh set of tyres.

The first stops also reshuffled third and fourth in places with Brundle swapping over with Coulthard, although the biggest loser by far was Berger, who dropped nearly a minute as his technicians struggled to plug the fuel nozzle into his Ferrari.

Once in front Schumacher invariably opened up the gap

## NBA labour dispute begins

By Roufan Nahas  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Financial support, lack of experience and care for the juniors at their primary levels remain the main problems facing our sports teams. Table tennis is one of them.

As an ex-champion of the game, president of the Jordan Table Tennis Federation (JTTF) Dr. Ismat Kurdi is really disturbed with the state of the game in the Kingdom.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Dr. Kurdi explained how the level of the game plunged to the current level and what can be done to take it to new heights.

"Lack of players' experience is our problem in this game. We cannot successfully compete against other teams who enjoy far better circumstances that develop their game," he noted.

Union chief Simon Gourdin said he still believed a deal could be worked out before the lockout interferes with the upcoming NBA season.

"We will meet with the owners shortly," Gourdin said, "and if they are prepared to respond in a meaningful way to the concerns our players have addressed with the proposed agreement, we can resolve this work stoppage with a ratified agreement within the next few weeks."

NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said: "If that deal is no longer acceptable to the players, then we are prepared to keep negotiating."

Owners ratified the new contract last week. It calls for added revenue that will be shared with players, an increase in the salary cap from \$15 million to \$23 million, a rookie salary cap and a luxury tax designed to tighten the salary cap on certain large contracts.

But some players balked at the luxury tax, which they say will restrict salaries too much and prevent player movement.

Gourdin blamed player agents for provoking players to rebel.

And NBA commissioner David Stern said the dissidents had been poorly advised when they decided to move to decertify the union and file an anti-trust suit against the league.

He said the renegades got "incorrect legal advice of some very significant magnitude."

"That will ultimately be borne out by the courts and by the losses that both we and our players are going to suffer from this work stoppage."

Jeffrey Kessler, the lawyer who filed the anti-trust lawsuit on behalf of seven players, said the NBA would come out the loser in court.

If the dissident players' suit is successful, Kessler said, the league will find itself owing damages to players.

"Some players are due millions of dollars at the beginning of July or next season," Kessler said, though he gave no examples. "The league may owe these players three times the payments they are owed."

During the lockout, teams

cannot negotiate with rookies or free agents, nor summer training leagues or tryouts will be held, and players cannot work out at team facilities or receive benefit payments.

## Jordanian table tennis aims for new heights

have some people who support us like the Potash Company," he added.

Beside the financial dilemma, more concern should be focused on the training of school children early, says Dr. Kurdi.

"Only then we can build a team to compete on the international level.

"Schools should care about the unknown talents and abilities of children. They are our treasure. We can take these potentials and make something out of them," said Dr. Kurdi.

If we were to talk about the time Jordanian table tennis enjoyed its golden years we should go back in time — about 15 years ago in 1977 in Syria when we took second place at the Arab Championship. The women's team took third place in 1978.

So what happened after all these years?

Jackleen Dugom an ex-player who represented Jordan in Seoul Olympics in 1988 and is now a member in the JTTF told the Jordan Times that players' attitudes was the main difference.

"Nowadays we face another sort of problems which is uncommitted players.

"We have some players who prefer to go with their friends to a club in-

stead of coming to training with the national team," Jackleen explains.

Dugom left the team on ground that she could not do more on the national team. But as a member in the JTTF she is still involved in the game.

"It is true that I left the game but now I am helping the new players, so you can say that I am still in it," she said.

The early retirement of players like Dugom and Nadia Rashad who also competed in the Olympics can afford to lose more?

The last Asian Championship which took place in China demonstrated the true level of the players: "Undoubtedly the women's team lacked experience, and the men's team did well but not as good as we hoped we would do."

"What our team lacks is mostly technical. Some players still don't have the basic moves and techniques but now we are taking care of these things."

Hopes lie in finding and creating new champions. On July 1st the Kingdom championship started. The JTTF hopes new champions will be spotted who may someday again successfully represent Jordan on the international level.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Ball quits Southampton

### Kiptanui to lead Kenya

LONDON (R) — Southampton boss Alan Ball has accepted a three-year contract to become manager of Manchester City, the Manchester club's managing director Colin Barlow confirmed on Saturday. Barlow said he was delighted Ball had agreed to leave the dell to take on the task of reviving the fortunes of the club, so long in the shadow of neighbouring giants Manchester United.

"Obviously we are delighted. He has been on our short-list of four from the start," he said.

"Our chairman Francis Lee did not even need to fly out to Spain where Alan is on holiday because Alan accepted our offer on the phone."

City finished 17th in the 22-strong Premier League last season, four points and two places away from relegation.

Owners ratified the new contract last week. It calls for added revenue that will be shared with players, an increase in the salary cap from \$15 million to \$23 million, a rookie salary cap and a luxury tax designed to tighten the salary cap on certain large contracts.

But some players balked at the luxury tax, which they say will restrict salaries too much and prevent player movement.

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cannot negotiate with rookies or free agents, nor summer training leagues or tryouts will be held, and players cannot work out at team facilities or receive benefit payments.

Clinton addresses Special Olympics

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton officially opened the Special Olympics World Games here in Connecticut state, in which 7,000 handicapped athletes will take part.

"The world could learn a great lesson from all you standing down here in the Yale Bowl tonight," he said. "Everybody counts and everybody can do something very, very important and good," he told some 70,000 spectators assembled in the stadium Saturday night. The Greek team led the athletes into the stadium, marking the start of the Games, which will last nine days.

Foster in Jamaican team

KINGSTON (R) — High hurdler Robert Foster, sent home in disgrace from last August's Commonwealth Games after testing positive for the banned stimulant ephedrine,

has been included in the Jamaican team for next month's world championships in Gothenburg.

Women's Commonwealth 100 metres hurdles champion Michelle Freeman has also been selected despite dropping out of the semifinals at the national championships after hitting a barrier.

German-born 1,500 metres specialist Yvonne Graham, wife of Olympic 400 metres hurdles silver medallist Winthrop, has been included along with her husband in the team.

Carnegie grabs another prize

SAINT CLOUD, France (AFP) — The Sheikh Mohammad owned Carnegie, 1994 Arc De Triomphe winner, put his disappointing run in Epson's Coronation Cup behind him to take the prestigious Group 1 Grand Prix de St. Cloud, worth 150,000 pounds to the winner, over a mile and a half (2400 metres) on Sunday.

Carnegie trained by Napoleon fanatic Andre Fabre faced strong opposition from the 63-year-old Mantle, a member of seven World Series winning New York Yankees teams, got preferential treatment. Despite those charges from some quarters, hospital authorities said Mantle was flooded with cards of support during his stay at Baylor University Medical Centre. Mantle said he did not realise how ill he was before the transplant.

Hamed closer to title fight

LONDON (AP) — Naseem Hamed's arrogant strut towards world title fight took another swagger forward with a second-round knock out of former world champion Juan Polo Perez in a defence of his WBC International super bantamweight belt Saturday.

Hamed, 21, danced and weaved his way through an easy first round, but unleashed some power punching two minutes into the second round to floor Polo Perez twice within 10 seconds. "I'll be world champion after my next fight," the British fighter said after the bout at the Royal Albert Hall. "No need to rave on about anything any more. I'm the best, you all know I'm the best."

During the lockout, teams

cannot negotiate with rookies or free agents, nor summer training leagues or tryouts will be held, and players cannot work out at team facilities or receive benefit payments.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNICK NOAH  
GOREN BRIDGE

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

1 NT ♠K1094 ♣A72 The bidding has proceeded.

North East South West 1 NT Dbl 7 Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

1 NT ♠K1092 ♣QJ6 ♦QJ3 The bidding has proceeded.

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1995 11

## Parma sign Stoichkov from Barcelona

VARNA, Bulgaria (R) — European footballer Hristo Stoichkov said on Saturday he had joined Parma of Italy from Barcelona.

"My Barcelona period has ended and now, as a Parma player, I will be seeking new victories," Stoichkov said at his Black Sea holiday retreat.

"From now on I will think how to win Italy's champions title with Parma," the Bulgaria World Cup star said in an interview with the Bulgarian radio station seven days.

"In two days, from Tuesday, I will be Parma's player," added Stoichkov, who posed with his wife for a Renter photographer at his Varna hotel on Saturday night.

He then left with friends — including World Cup team mate Yordan Lechkov who plays for Germany's Hamburg — for a restaurant in the Black Sea resort to celebrate his new contract. Stoichkov, denying discus-

sing financial conditions with Parma, said he has chosen the Italian team because they were the first to approach him with concrete offers and he liked their style of play.

But Italian television reported from Parma that Stoichkov had agreed to a three-year contract and the deal was worth an estimated 25 billion lire (\$15 million), half going to the player and the rest to Barcelona.

It said the contract was signed in Barcelona on Saturday in the presence of executives of the former Spanish champions and Parma director general Giambattista Pastoreto.

Stoichkov is expected in Italy on Monday for a medical examination.

Parma, an ambitious club who only won promotion to Serie A in 1990, have since won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993, reached the final following season and taken the UEFA Cup the season after that.

## Yugoslavia, Lithuania in basketball final

ATHENS (AP) — Sarunas Marciulionis and Arvydas Sabonis carried Lithuania to a 80-70 victory over Croatia, Saturday and a final showdown with Yugoslavia at the European Championship.

Predrag Danilovic and Dejan Bodiroga led Yugoslavia to a 60-52 victory over host Greece in a game marked by poor shooting by both teams.

Yugoslavia is making a return after missing international competition for 2½ years because of U.N. sanctions.

Marciulionis, the Seattle Supersonics guard, had 27 points and Sabonis, the giant centre who is heading to the Portland Trail Blazers, added 26 as Lithuania spoiled the hopes for an expected Yugoslavia-Croatia final.

Lithuania has the chance to win its first title since regaining independence following the breakup of the Soviet Union. It won the 1937 and 1939 titles. Yugoslavia beat Lithuania 70-61 in group play here.

"I haven't seen my team play so well for a long time, they're playing great the entire tournament, except at the end against Yugoslavia," said Lithuanian coach Vladas Garasas.

Sabonis also had 17 rebounds, and Lithuania got 19 points from Arturas Karanishovas, a former Seton Hall player who outplayed Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls and scored some big points.

Lithuania took a 10-point lead at the start, Croatia battled back to even the score, but Lithuania kept opening up leads.

Ivica Maric hit a 3-pointer to bring Croatia within one,

73-72, with 4:18 left.

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## Tarango tantrum upstages Agassi win

LONDON (R) — Unheralded but no longer unsung California Jeff Tarango walked on the wild side at Wimbledon on Saturday, defaulting in dramatic circumstances to upstage a fighting victory by Andre Agassi.

Accusing the umpire of bias against him and of awarding past matches to other players for friendship, Tarango capped a tantrum over a service call in his third-round match with German Alexander Mronz to win the game (AFP photo).

"You are the most corrupt official in the game," the 26-year-old American shouted at French umpire Bruno Rebeuh before he departed in a manner unprecedented in Wimbledon's long, colourful and chequered history.

No player had ever defaulted himself before, though Briton Tim Henman was defaulted from a doubles on Wednesday after hitting a ballgirl with a ball struck in anger.

Tarango, whose wife Benedicte later slapped Rebeuh, levelled his accusations against the umpire at a press conference and maintained he was justified in his action "because I don't feel a player has any defence these days in getting some kind of justice when things go wrong against me."

Top seed Agassi survived a predictably bruising encounter with fellow American David Wheaton, winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 to take a 4-3 edge in his lifetime series against Tarango read 7-6, 3-1 default.

Third seed Boris Becker raised his game a notch after dropping the first set and beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. Next he will face the towering Belgian outsider Dick Norman, who continued his amazing progress with a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Todd Woodbridge.

The towering 2.04 metres Norman, ranked 176th, is the first lucky loser from the qualifying draw final round eve to get to the Wimbledon

"David plays erratic but big tennis and it doesn't lend to feeling good about your



Jeff Tarango of the U.S. in discussion with a Wimbledon referee after a dispute line call. Tarango finally walked off the court leaving Alexander Mronz to win the game (AFP photo)

game. I just feel glad about getting through it," he said.

Asked his opinion about Tarango's outburst, Agassi said: "I think it's a sad situation. Maybe he should have taken an hour or so before he came into the press-room here, to regroup a little bit. Nobody wins in a situation like that. There's no reason to turn it into a circus."

He next faces the 117th-ranked Mronz, whose score against Tarango read 7-6, 3-1 default.

Third seed Boris Becker raised his game a notch after dropping the first set and beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. Next he will face the towering Belgian outsider Dick Norman, who continued his amazing progress with a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Todd Woodbridge.

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"David plays erratic but big tennis and it doesn't lend to feeling good about your

the umpire overruled the linesman and called a Tarango service good.

He ordered the point to be replayed. Tarango felt strongly he should have been awarded.

His protest brought a penalty point, then loss of game, at which juncture Tarango had had enough — and off he went.

Now Tarango faces a substantial fine and a possible suspension after the case and his accusations are investigated.

Tarango went on to attack the lack of recourse he feels players have.

"We don't have player representatives any more — the title has been changed to tour manager," he said.

"We don't have anybody who'll defend us when we're fined. It just goes straight to an appeal where one person decided and that's it. People just take money out of our pockets every week for fines and we can't appeal to anyone."

"We have to sue the tour, or whatever body fines us, in order to try to get our \$500 or \$1,000 back but it makes no sense for us to do this because the lawyer fees alone are more than that."

\* Martin doesn't go for short cut: Big-serving Todd Martin believes the Wimbledon courts are getting faster each day because the grass is being cut too short.

While much debate has focused on the reduced pressure of the ball to try and slow down the power hitters, Martin, who outgunned Detroit Rosnagel 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to gain the last 16, said nothing would take the sting out of the big serves hurled down by players like Goran Ivanisevic and Pete Sampras.

Tarango's problems in the match, other than finding Rebeuh in the chair, came when

(1.98 metre) American said. "Until they stop cutting the grass shorter and shorter as the tournament goes on, it's always going to be fast."

"The court today was 20, 25 per cent faster than it was two days ago and the grass is dying quickly. I'm sure it's because of the sun and the abuse it's getting and she's also cutting the grass much shorter," said Martin.

"In my lawnmowing little experience, the shorter you cut it the easier it dies, which is going to make it quick."

Graf likes it hot: Wimbledon's current heat wave is good news for Steffi Graf. The German player, who is bidding for a sixth titles, may not have an opponent that can beat her in the draw but her worst enemy remains a chronic back injury.

"It is important the weather stays warm — the warmer the better — so that my back does not stiffen up," says 26-year-old Graf.

"I've been living with this problem for eight or nine months now. There has been no real trouble with it this week but I've had the occasional loss of concentration worrying maybe that it will come."

\* Language barrier: Andre Agassi has been keeping an ear on Britain's tennis import from Canada — Greg Rusedski.

"I'm getting a kick out of watching him try to pick up the English accent," said Agassi, who, like Britain's new Davis Cup hope, is safely through to the third-round of the men's singles.

"He's started using words like 'brilliant' and 'lovely' in his press conferences!"

Wimbledon notebook

\* Pam Shriver has had so much trouble with her shoulder she's become something

of an expert on injuries. So it could be bad news for Steffi Graf when the American says the German's back injury could finish her career.

"I believe her back will be bad for the rest of her career," said Shriver, who turned 33 Tuesday and is making her 16th appearance at Wimbledon.

"She must try to keep it contained and keep it from getting worse. But that's easier said than done and I'm sure it is on her mind all the time."

"I would not be surprised if at any time she said 'hey, I have battled through this pain as long as I can and it's time to let it go,'" said Shriver, who needed surgery in 1990 to repair a loose and unstable shoulder.

Graf, trouble to make it to the fourth round. She overpowered Dutch player Kristie Boogerd 6-1, 6-0 Saturday.

"Naturally, I can't answer for her," Shriver said. "But I think this year is the year to say 'is it going to get worse or is it going to stay as it is.'"

\* Stick to tennis: Pete Sampras admits he hits the ball like John Daly. The defending Wimbledon champion says he's an enthusiastic golfer when he's away from the tennis court. Renowned for his big serves, he admits some of it rubs off on the golf course.

"I like to give the ball a real belt like Daly," he said. "I swing all out and I guess I can hit it 300 yards at times."

"Mind you, Daly has a lot more control than me. My long drives often finish in the trees."

Daly probably wouldn't agree, but Sampras believes that golf isn't as tough as tennis.

"Golf should be easy," he said. "After all, the ball never moves and you try to produce the same swing all the time."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Algeria replaces interior minister

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has removed hardline Interior Minister Abdul Rahmene Meziane-cherif, a staunch opponent of Muslim militants. Algerian state-run radio said on Sunday. The radio, quoting an official statement, said Mustapha Ben Mensour had been named to replace Mr. Meziane-cherif and that the change was made at the proposal of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi.

## Iran will support what Syria wants

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday repeated his opposition to the Middle East peace process, but said that if Syria was happy with a peace deal with Israel then Tehran would be too. He told Cable News Network (CNN) that a peace accord between Israel and Syria was a "hypothesis" which would have to be seen before Iran could adopt a position on it. "If there is an agreement and Syria is content with it, we will be content," he said. But he added the "peace process is not a peace," it is "fire under ashes." The Iranian leader added that his country was not taking any "practical measures" against the peace process, implicitly rejecting accusations that his country supports international "terrorism." "If there are Palestinian groups fighting, that is their right," he said.

## Yemeni authorities foil hijacking bid

SANA (AFP) — Yemeni authorities on Sunday foiled an attempted hijacking of an Ethiopian plane from Sanaa international airport only minutes before take-off. The Ethiopian hijacker brought a bomb on board but security services discovered the explosive just "minutes before the plane took off for Addis Ababa," an official spokesman said. The would-be hijacker, who had hidden the bomb in an electrical item, was arrested on board. An initial inquiry identified the hijacker as 28-year-old Moushaf Bayo. Authorities said he was planning to force the pilot to fly to Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The Yemeni spokesman did not say what Bayo's motives were, but added an inquiry had been launched.

## 'Powell would run neck-and-neck against Clinton'

NEW YORK (AP) — President Bill Clinton and former U.S. military chief Colin Powell would be in a dead heat in a head-to-head presidential election, a Time Magazine/CNN poll found. Assuming he runs for the Republican Party, Mr. Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was favoured over Mr. Clinton 44 per cent to 41 per cent in the poll of 1,000 people conducted June 21-22. Others said they were not sure or would not vote. The survey, in the issue of Time due out Monday, had a margin of error of plus or minus three per cent, meaning Mr. Clinton and Mr. Powell would be in a statistical dead heat. Mr. Clinton, however, would narrowly win a three-way race against Republican Bob Dole and Mr. Powell running as an independent. In the three-way contest, 33 per cent favoured Mr. Clinton, 29 per cent Mr. Powell and 27 per cent Mr. Dole.

## Iranian group warns against press law reform

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian opposition group warned Sunday that a proposed new press law would further restrict political and cultural freedom in the Islamic republic. The nationalist Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of the rare opposition groups to be tolerated here, said in a statement that "anti-democratic" changes outlined in the draft law would have "dangerous consequences" for the country's fledgling press freedom. They would "seal a hole of freedom our people have gained over the years," said the group, headed by Ebrahim Yazdi. The proposal, to be discussed by parliament next month, would empower the Islamic Culture Ministry to close down newspapers and periodicals if they are seen as violating the law. As the law stands, any charges against the press must be brought to a court and put before a jury in an open trial. The reform proposal has sparked controversy among politicians and journalists who see it as a move by the government to clamp down on press freedom. The LMI argued that the law, if passed, "would lead to new restrictions and to growing interference by the executive power in the duties of the judiciary."

## Egypt papers cash in on Mubarak wave

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian newspapers have cashed in on the wave of popularity enjoyed by President Hosni Mubarak since his escape from an assassination attempt last week. Two government-owned newspapers — Al Ahram and Al Akhbar — said on Sunday they had made nearly \$2.0 million from advertisements congratulating Mr. Mubarak on his escape. Al Ahram said it made 4.72 million Egyptian (\$1.38 million) in the three days after the attempt on Mubarak's life last Monday in Addis Ababa. Al Akhbar said it made 1.63 million pounds (\$478,000) over the same period.

## Hamas weekly shuts down in protest at PNA

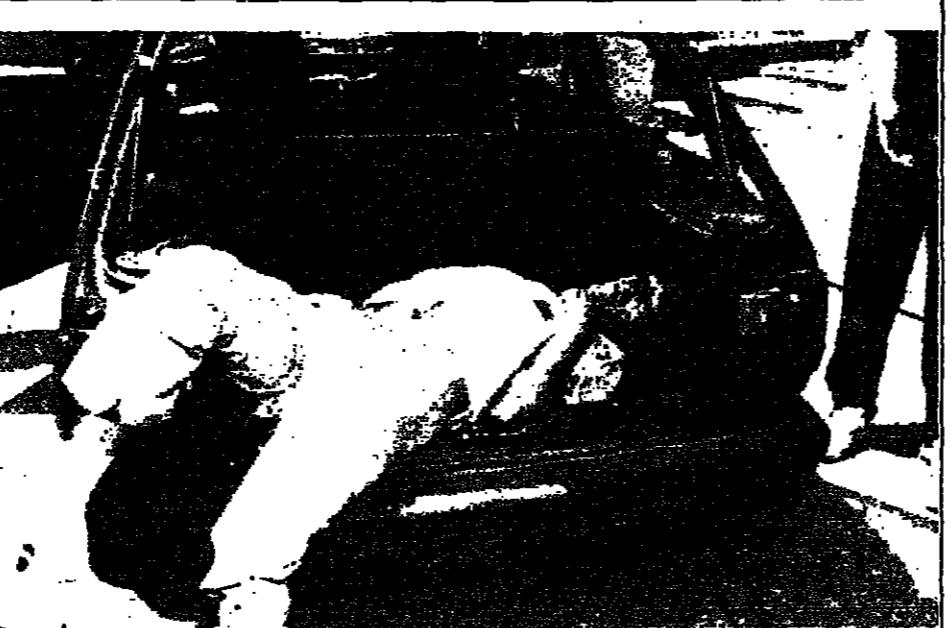
GAZA CITY (AFP) — Al Watan, the newspaper of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, has suspended publication in a protest against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). "Our general manager is still in jail and unwell, so we announce a suspension of our publication until further notice," the weekly announced in a statement Sunday. Al Watan charged the self-rule authority with "not respecting democratic rights any more, especially the freedom of expression and opinion and press freedom." The announcement came two weeks after PNA President Yasser Arafat lifted a three-month ban imposed by a military court on Al Watan (*The Homeland*) for inciting revolt. The court also jailed Al Watan's general manager Sayed Abu Mesameh for two years. The protest move followed Hamas accusations on Saturday that Palestinian security forces tortured detained leaders from the group and shaved off the beards in an insult to Islam.

## Sudan accuses Eritrea of provocations

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Sudanese army spokesman on Sunday accused Eritrea for the first time of sparking provocations at the border between the two countries. "Eritrean elements constantly commit provocations at the border," General Mohammad Bashir Suleiman said without elaborating, cited in the independent daily Akbar Al Youm. Asmara broke off relations with Khartoum in December and in June hosted a conference of Sudanese opposition groups seeking to form a unified platform for overthrowing Sudan's regime, in place since 1989. "Sudan is capable of defending its security and stability," Mr. Suleiman said. The general said that plan by the opposition's armed wing, The Sudanese Legion, to carry the civil war in the south to the north was "destined to fail because it does not correspond with reality in Sudan."

## Girl raped, strangled and dumped in garbage

DUBAI (AFP) — A seven-year-old girl was raped and strangled before her body was dumped in a garbage can here in the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported Sunday. A road sweeper found her body stuffed into a bag that he had removed from a garbage can early on Saturday, investigators told the Al Khaleej newspaper. The girl appeared to have been strangled by one or more people after she had been raped, they said. She was identified by her parents who had reported her missing five days before. The victim's nationality was not given.



SHELL VICTIM: A man killed in a mortar blast lies on the ground. More than 12 people were killed and dozens wounded in random shelling of a car which took him to hospital in Sarajevo on Saturday. (AFP photo)

## House votes against cutting down working hours

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputies Sunday voted down several proposals calling for the reduction of working hours and days but left the door open for private sector employers to do so on their own.

The votes came as the Lower House of Parliament continued its debate of a 145-article draft labour law. The House had approved 50 articles before Sunday's session during which lawmakers adopted another 10 articles with some amendments.

Also discussed during the session was a draft law on the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ). The draft legislation drew strong controversy as some deputies saw it unconstitutional and others said it would increase the tax burden on citizens.

The discussion on the WAJ draft law, which would amend a 1964 law that is still in effect, came at the outset of the session

and the House finally referred the legislation to the Financial Committee after reversing an earlier decision to lodge it with the Judiciary Committee citing Constitutional reasons.

President of the Judiciary Committee, Abdul Karim Daghmi, said the law should be either returned to the government for reconsideration or referred to the Financial Committee.

He said the government has been levying taxes for over 10 years without having the right legislation to do so.

The 1964 law stipulates that taxes should be levied for a period of 20 years. Arguing that this period ended in 1964, Islamist Deputy Abdul Rahim Okour said the government has been collecting taxes "illegally" since 1984.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said that the government did not intend to levy extra taxes from citizens.

"The government had no intention to increase the

burdens on citizens. What happened was merely a conflict between laws themselves," he said.

After settling the dispute over the JWA law, the House returned to the draft labour law and went into a heated debate over the possibility of reducing working hours and days in line with developed countries.

The proposal to reduce the working days from six to five was made by Deputy Abdullah Ensour who said Jordan should follow the example of developed countries.

"The notion that our country is backward and we have to work double that of developed countries is invalid," he said. "We should not overload workers with more working hours while all developed countries are in the process of reducing working hours to 36 and have already five working days."

Mr. Rawabdeh said this option was already studied in the past but did not

(Continued on page 7)

## Arab League is divided over 'pact of honour' to avert wars

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League efforts to formulate a "pact of honour" to end wars between Arab countries have run into divisions because some delegates are being unrealistic and living in "fantasy land," a diplomat said on Sunday.

A league committee, which met once previously on June 12, gathered on Sunday to consider a draft agreement for the pact, which was first proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in March.

"The pledge will include general bases and principles to govern inter-Arab relations," Hamad Hareb Al Habsi, the representative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said after the meeting.

But an Arab diplomat close to Sunday's session said that the members "have different attitudes."

He said some delegates wanted "to count on the Arab League Charter to establish a new idea of rela-

tions," which was "unrealistic." They were living in a "fantasy land," he said.

"Of course we all support the Arab League charter, but the pledge must deal directly with the reality of the disaster of (Arab) relations and the loss of security."

"When are we going to work in a rational framework?" he said.

The diplomat said the pledge must stick to three main security principles: "Preventing the occurrence of crises, preventing their escalation and an Arab commitment against crises. There must be a mechanism to treat crises."

"Anything outside these principles means getting lost in labyrinth."

Nevertheless, the diplomat said he expected the committee would reach a draft formula for the pledge in its next meeting in late July. He did not specify the exact date.

(Continued on page 7)

## Algeria to mark independence day with rare hope

ALGIERS (R) — After years of bloodshed, Algeria is looking ahead to Wednesday's July 5 independence day with a rare optimism, sparked by fresh talks between the leadership and Islamic fundamentalists, that an end to crisis may be in sight.

The authorities' goal is to

get a commitment to non-

violence by the Islamic

militants and their pledge

to respect the constitution.

In exchange, the militants

want jailed activists, in-

cluding Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) leaders, freed.

Implicit in any agree-

ment would be the possibil-

ity of the outlawed FIS

being allowed in some way

to operate and take part in

eventual elections. The au-

thorities have promised a

presidential election for

this year, to be followed at

an unspecified date by

general and local elections.

Diplomats said that FIS

President Abassi Madani,

serving a 12-year jail term

for activities against the

state, has recorded a video-

tape appealing for an end

to violence after talks with General Mohammed Bechir, security adviser to President Liamine Zeroual.

"There is some progress since Abassi Madani already has recorded a video-tape appealing to his followers to end violence, and the tape is now in the hands of the authorities. But there is still a disagreement about who can be released as a measure of appeasement," one Algiers-based diplomat said.

"The authorities are willing to release Madani and some jailed FIS leaders as a first measure but the FIS is insisting on an immediate general amnesty," he added.

"So, there might be some announcement for the independence day but I don't believe it would be a final agreement."

Another encouraging sign came on Saturday when the Interior Ministry announced a cut in the hours of a curfew that has

affected most of the country's 27 million people since February 1992. From July 5 it will run from midnight to 4 a.m.

Two FIS leaders, Ali Jeddri and Abdul Kader Boukhamkam, freed in an earlier goodwill gesture confirmed during a meeting of eight opposition party leaders last week in Algiers that the FIS and Algerian presidency were holding talks.

"Jeddri and Boukhamkam said at the meeting that there are contacts but the results would only be known through official statements on matters related to the two parties,"

Abdul Ghafour Saadi, spokesman of a legal fundamentalist movement, Nahda, whose leaders attended the meeting, told Reuters.

"Yes, definitely, there are talks between the presidency and Madani and several other leaders, including Madani's deputy Ali Belhadj," another diplomat said.

Some of these militants believe power will only come through force, and point to the authorities' cancellation in January 1992 of a general election in which the FIS was poised to

## 19 injured in huge fire near Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least 19 people suffered from smoke inhalation in a huge fire that cut the main highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on Sunday, medical officials said.

The flames, whipped by high winds, spread quickly towards Jerusalem. The western outskirts of the city were inundated with the smell of burning wood and ashes drifted down onto the city's streets.

Police spokesman Eric Bar

Chen told Reuters four communi-

cities... Moshe Ben-

Benjamin said.

He said the fire extended eight kilometres from the town of Beit Shemesh to Shorash, a moshav (semi-collective community) about 10 kilometres west of Jeru-

salim.

Cars were backed up for

kilometres in either direction.

Traffic also came to a

standstill in many parts of

Jerusalem.

Residents were evacuated from a cluster of towns several kilometres west of Jerusalem as the flames approached. Police identified the towns as Newe Ilan, Shorash, Shoava, Telstone, Kiryat Ya'akov and Yad Hashmona.

Hundreds of soldiers, policemen and civilian volunteers joined firemen battling the blaze.

Avraham Halbersberg, of Israel's emergency medical service Magen David Adom told Israel Radio: "We know of about 19 injured who are being evacuated to Jeru-

salim."

Israel Radio said fire-

fighters suspected arsons

caused the blaze.

Mr. Bar Chen later said

fire officials had meant the "human element" could have caused it, meaning he said, a carelessly tossed cigarette might have ignited the blaze.

Hundreds of people fled

the four communities in the

fire's path.

"We saw a long line of

people streaming out of

Newe Ilan on foot, some with

their animals, camels, a

donkey," witness Rachel

Halberg said.

Helicopters dumped water

on the burning forests.

The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv

highway, in the area of the fire